

Our Children



"THIS IS RARE FUN"

WALKING WITH GOD

CENTURIES ago in the world's history there lived a man of whom we know very little, and yet very much. What we are told of him is contained in a few verses in the Old Testament and two in the New (Genesis 5. 21-24, Hebrews 11. 5, Jude 14). Enoch as you will have seen, is his name.

It is just possible that Enoch would hear from Adam the story of Eden : and how on account of sin, Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden, but not before the promise of a Deliverer had been given by God. The Deliverer, as you know, is our Lord Jesus Christ, who by His atoning death on the cross, saves any and all who trust Him with their soul's salvation. Of course we cannot say definitely that Enoch heard these things from Adam, but we do know *for certain* that he "**walked with God,**" and this for 300 years.

We are also told "**he pleased God**" and that he did not die. "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death : . . . because God had translated him." And also "before his translation he had this testimony, that **he pleased God**" (Hebrews 11. 5).

We can better understand what walking with God means when we think about walking with any of our friends : and the more we walk with them, so shall we get to know them better. Enoch had God for his Companion and Friend. Would you not like to be in a similar position ? No need to fear that He will not be there when you need Him, for He says, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." No cause to be afraid of anyone because the Christian can say, "If God be for us, who can be against us ?"

But never forget that in order that we might know and enjoy communion with God, the Lord Jesus died "the Just for the unjust to bring us to God."

Do you know God in this way ? because otherwise you cannot walk with Him. If in anyway uncertain make your decision **NOW**, at this the commencement of a New Year : so will you be truly happy, like Enoch, with the Lord Jesus as your faithful, all powerful, and ever-present Friend.

EDITOR.



MY CUP RUNNETH OVER

THAT was a sweet prayer of a young Christian who said ; "Lord, fill me to overflowing. I cannot hold much, but I can overflow a great deal."

With many the desire concerning Divine blessing is to *hold* and enjoy : whereas with God it is to **give** and to **overflow** to others.

There is certainly great need for overflowing Christians amidst all the sorrow around us to-day. How many of our readers will say like Isaiah, "Here am I, send me ?"

GIPSY SMITH AND THE CHERRIES

GIPSY SMITH tells this story of when he was a boy. He says; "One day, while my uncles and father were holding meetings in a village, my father took me to a cherry tree. He stood under the tree, and held out his coat and cried, "Cherries, come down into my coat!" After a time I thought I had better say, "Father, you must pluck them."

"Ah," he said, "that is what I want you to see. I have heard you pray night and morning, "Lord, save me, and make me a good boy," when God is just hanging all over you the promises in His Word, which are like these cherries. All you have to do is to pluck them, and receive them for your own. Christ says, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6. 37).

Gipsy Smith came to the Lord Jesus, and soon he was able to sing, like Mr. Bonar :

"I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad,
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad."

If you have never come yet to the Lord Jesus, will you do as Gipsy Smith did, and **COME TO-DAY** ?

Perhaps you say, "But *how* can I come ?" I will give you four short words of advice, and they all begin with "A" !

First, **ACCEPT** the Lord Jesus Christ as your own Saviour.

Second, **ASK** Him to forgive you your sins.

Third, **ACKNOWLEDGE** Him as your Saviour at once before others.

And fourth, **ABSOLUTELY TRUST** Him to keep you from sin and its power, and to give you the strength to confess Him all along life's way.

MABEL STUBBS.



CHARLIE'S DIFFICULTY

A LITTLE boy was once much puzzled about sins being blotted out, and said, "I cannot think what becomes of all the sins God forgives, mother."

"Why, Charlie, can you tell me where are all the figures you wrote on your slate yesterday ?"

"I washed them all out, mother."

"And where are they then ?"

"Why, they are nowhere, they are gone," said Charlie.

Just so is it, with the believer's sins : they are gone—"blotted out"—*remembered no more*.

"I, even I," saith Jehovah, "am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own Name's sake, and will not remember thy sins." Have your sins been blotted out, young reader ?

A HOME BEYOND

A STORY is told of an old Norse King, sitting one night in his great hall, when the tempest was raging furiously without. The great fire threw its glare far out into the dark recesses of the hall, all the brighter for the storm and darkness around.

While the king talked with his counsellors, a bird flew in, passed over them, and out again at the open window opposite.

“Such,” said the king, “is the life of man—out of darkness into light, and then out of light into darkness, lost in blackness and storm again.”

“Yes, Sire,” said an old courtier, “*but the bird has its nest beyond.*”

Reader, have you got your nest beyond? Have you found an abiding shelter in the deep cleft of the Rock of Ages? Without a home in God, in Christ, you are like the bird building its nest on the brittle bough, or the tree marked by the woodman for destruction. The ruthless woodman’s axe rings at the foot. The tree falls, and the homeless bird flies through the forest pouring forth its plaintive tale of woe.

But with a home *in Him*, you are like the lofty soaring eagle, which builds his nest in the deep cleft on the giddy precipice. Let the storm rage ever so furiously, let the floods thunder and rock themselves into mad fury at the foot, let the wild winds blow a hurricane aloft, none of these things move the eagle, safely sheltered in the cleft of the rock.



A BEAUTIFUL ANSWER

IN a pretty country village, a lady was teaching her Sunday School class. She began to read to her scholars the well-known hymn, which begins,

“I think when I read that sweet story of old.”

Pausing at the end of the first line she said, “Children, what sweet story is that?” A little girl of five piped up and said, “Please teacher it is ‘**God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life**’” (John 3, 16).

Was that not a good answer? Could the little maiden have given a better?

What a sweet story it is! God loved, and God gave. God loved *the world*. God gave *His Son*. And this in order, if any one believes, he shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

What a message! Have you believed it? Have you received it?

A. J. POLLOCK.

A SCHOOL-GIRL STORY

DORIS had only quite recently learned to know the Lord Jesus as her own personal Saviour. She had gone with her parents one evening to hear a well-known evangelist preach, and there and then her heart was opened, she received Him by faith, and believed that He had shed His blood to save her. This made her very happy, and very soon after she wrote to a friend whom she knew had long cared for her soul, and confided to her the joyful news.

Doris now became very desirous that her friends at school should learn to know their need of a Saviour also, and that they, too, might be converted. Talking one day on the subject to Connie, a girl in her own class, the latter owned she had come to the Lord Jesus for salvation more than a year ago, but had never confessed Him. Now she decided to do so, and it was a great joy to her Christian teacher when both girls came to her, and Connie told her very simply, but with great earnestness, that she wanted to confess that Jesus had died for her, and that she knew Him as her own Saviour.

Both girls decided after prayer to speak to others about salvation: and although some of their school friends sneered and refused to listen, yet it was not long before a girl called Vera was brought to confess herself a sinner before God, and to trust the Saviour whom He had provided. So she passed from death unto life, and her happy face soon showed the change within.

Now let me ask you. Do you know Him yet? Perhaps you have heard about Him many times, and you really mean to be saved some day. But how dangerous to put the matter off, and how much happiness you are missing by not coming to Jesus now, just as you *are*, and receiving Him by faith in your heart.

Make your decision for Him now, and then let your light shine so that others may be saved.

H. J.



WHAT MADE HIM SMILE

A PRIEST once took a New Testament from a little boy and burnt it, telling him it was not a proper book for him to read.

The little boy cried, but in a while dried up his tears and began to smile. "Why do you smile?" asked the priest. The boy replied, "Because I was just thinking that you *cannot burn* those chapters which I have got off by heart."

No, no: those were his own, and could not be taken from him. With the Psalmist he could say, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart" (Psalm 119, 11).

What about you, dear reader?

THE BEREANS

“**S**EARCHED the Scriptures daily” (Acts 17. 11). If you are saved and belong to the Lord, you will find it not only helpful, but necessary in your daily life, and for your growth in grace that each day some portion of Scripture be not only read, but thought upon and pondered in your heart.

Remember, the word of God has not only been the instrument through the Holy Spirit of your conversion, but it now becomes your daily food, it is what your soul grows on, for from its chapters and texts you learn of God, of His thoughts and purposes of His love to us in the Lord Jesus Christ, and of His grace bestowed on us according to our need. We are taught how to walk and conduct ourselves in every relation of life : **it is indeed “a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”** (Psalm 119. 105).

Our hearts get cold and dead if we neglect our portion of Scripture, our lives get shrivelled and dry ; we become useless and like the world around us, were it not for God’s truth, which ever sanctifies us, and makes us like our Lord and Master. So we need not only to search the Scriptures, that is, track and trace out the various subjects and doctrines, but we have to do this **daily**. Never a day without some fresh thought, some precious word out of God’s treasury, so that all day long we may grow in the strength of it, and thus brush temptation on one side, and walk holily and blamelessly, as God would have us do.

Before we read our daily portion let us close our eyes, and breathe out this little prayer from our heart, “**Open Thou mine eyes, that I may see wondrous things out of Thy law.**”



ON THE INSTANT

THERE had been a discussion on “Sudden Conversion.” “Never could believe it myself,” said Harry. “’Tisn’t reasonable.”

“When you press the electric switch,” said Tom, “doesn’t the light flash out at once ?”

“Of course.”

“And when a driver pulls over his lever how long is it before the engine moves ?”

“It starts right away.”

“Well, then,” continued Tom, “why is Jesus Christ considered unreasonable when He says, ‘He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life ?’ To believe is to receive spiritual energy.”

“Just what do you mean ?” Harry asked.

“Why,” said Tom, “when I believed that Jesus died for my sins, I saw in a flash that I was free. That’s *light*. And when I understood that He lives again to help me, I felt I could endure temptation. That’s power. **Light and power—that’s everlasting life.**

Are you converted, dear reader ?

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (I) SIN

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

We commence this New Year with a very dreadful subject, but it is a subject which all of us must face.

In the second chapter of Genesis we read how God made everything bright and beautiful. He put Adam and Eve into the Garden of Eden, which was a wonderful place, and gave them everything to enjoy. But sin came in and blighted the whole scene, and from that garden the stream of evil has worked itself into the whole of human history. **All the sorrow and death in the world to-day is the result of sin.**

Sin is a horrible thing. God cannot look upon sin and there will be no sin in His presence. *It is a fact that we are all sinners.* We cannot look into each others hearts and see sins, but *I know that I am a sinner, and you know that you are a sinner.* Further, God's word declares that **"all have sinned."** Being a sinner, you are in a terrible position. A position from which nothing but the hand of God can save you.

Because God cannot endure sin, the sinner is in danger of being eternally shut out of God's presence. Idle thoughts, idle words and evil deeds must bear their fruit. As surely as the saved will go into everlasting happiness, so shall the sinner depart into everlasting punishment.

You may not have thought how perilous is your condition if you are unsaved. Many young people do not think. But you *ought* to think. You know that you have done many things you ought not to have done. You have sinned. If you are not saved, you are lost. And, unless the Lord Jesus Christ saves you, you will be lost forever.

"Then how can I be saved?" perhaps you say. Let me remind you of a well-known text: **"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."** God's salvation is for people who are sinners and for none else. Christ did not come into the world to save anybody but sinners. Sinners only are the objects of salvation, for none but sinners need saving. If there had been no sinners, there would certainly have been no *saving* and no *Saviour*. Who wants saving but a lost person? To the sinner salvation and forgiveness can come, *but to no one else.*

God could not in justice pass over sin without an atonement; but He made that atonement Himself. Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice that He might save sinners. **Jesus died that sinners might live.** All the hope you can ever have lies in the Lord Jesus Christ. Look to Christ alone for He is the way of salvation. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and sinners shall be saved. Will *you* be amongst them? Why should *you* not be amongst them?

Your affectionate Friend, C. S. Ross.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

As you will see, our magazine is somewhat altered now. It is being published bi-monthly this year, so that you will only have Scripture Searchings to do every two months. I hope this will mean that you will be able to do it regularly. Try and get your friends to do it, too.

Prizes will be given in December only and there will be no consolation prizes now.

A good Bible will be presented as the First Prize in each division as before.

Your loving friend, E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY, 1942

Subject—SIN

1. "Whosoever committeth sin . . ." Write out the verse where these words occur.—John 8.
2. How many times is sin mentioned in Romans 6?
3. What did John say as He saw Jesus coming unto Him? John 1.
4. Write out the verse which mentions "Sin" in 2 Corinthians 5.
5. What did Moses choose rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin? Hebrews 11.
6. Who did no sin? 1 Peter 2.
7. What cleanses us from all sin? 1 John 1.
8. What have we to reckon? Romans 6.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help.
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2 oz., and post to reach by end of January. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year.

Prizes cease at the age of 16, but Searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings.

NOVEMBER SEARCHERS

Age 14 years and over

1st Class.—E. Anderson, W. Bewick, J. Binnie, J. Edgar, G. Fisher, H. Foreman, B. Graham, A. Hodgins, C. Hodgins, E. Maill, G. Norrie, H. Norrie, N. Norval, W. O'Brien, S. Oliver, E. Pill, A. Reade, J. Reid, J. Renton, D. Rice, K. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, J. D. Rugg, E. Stephenson, J. Stephenson, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. Warc, R. Webster, J. R. Willis, N. Wilson.

2nd Class.—E. Bell, A. Berrill, P. Hepple, L. Morton, S. Smith.

Age 11 up to 13 years

1st Class.—H. Baugh, M. Baugh, J. Bayliss, H. Beard, A. Binnie, N. Bunce, J. Diack, G. Duncan, S. Dunn, M. Farmer, J. Fisher, G. Forster, A. Goodwill, J. Greshon, B. Haggard, M. Handcock, S. Hartley, C. T. Harvey, G. Harvey, J. Hince, D. Hornal, B. Jackson, J. Jackson, M. Kidd, R. McCrindle, F. M. Messenger, J. H. Mitchell, A. Norrie, E. O'Brien, A. Pratt, R. Purvis, E. Robertson, M. Robertson, J. Robertson, B. Rogerson, K. Rugg, K. Shillito, A. Simpson, R. Simpson, B. Stephenson, M. Stewart, M. Tait, M. Thorn, R. Usher.

2nd Class.—L. Bowes, N. Byass, A. Hay, D. Jolly, J. Leighton, J. Lupton, J. Pringle, O. Rogers.

Age 10 years and under

1st Class.—M. Abbey, S. Adams, M. Anderson, E. Auld, A. Barker, B. Baugh, F. Baugh, L. Bean, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, W. Black, C. Blackburn, S. Carr, B. Clarke, G. Coutts, D. Dunn, R. Evans, K. Fairbairn, V. Fairbairn, R. Forster, S. Forster, B. Greiff, D. Greiff, H. Grisdale, P. Haggard, K. Haining, S. Handcock, A. Harbottle, R. Harbottle, O. Hart, J. Haughton, D. Henderson, L. Henderson, B. Hodgins, A. Hodgson, P. Howitt, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, M. Johnson, A. Jones, D. Kidd, V. Lawson, M. Malvern, D. Manson, M. Marsh, E. May, J. O'Brien, J. Owens, I. Peevor, F. Pringle, A. Raine, A. Rice, J. Richmond, N. Rogers, H. Rogerson, J. Short, B. Spencer, A. Stephenson, R. Stephenson, M. Stewart, G. Stuart, L. Thompson, L. Willis, J. Wilson.

2nd Class.—L. Bell, O. Byass, M. Clamp, M. Grisdale, V. Hill, G. Mattingley.

Short interesting articles containing the Gospel will be welcomed by the Editor:—

J. H. RUGG, 22, SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

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Our Children



"LOOK OUT, IT'S COMING"

[Photo, J. H. Stone]

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at New York, N.Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Published Bi-Monthly, 1½d. net or 1/3 per annum, post free.

JEANIES' TRUST

DURING the days of the Covenanters there lived a little girl who was called Jeanie. Her father was a farmer and the little girl's life was spent in peaceful surroundings, and in a home where God's Word was read daily and revered always. She was taught to honour and love God and be obedient to parents, which as the Bible tells us, is the first commandment with promise.

Jeanie, when she was only eight years old, was put to a very severe test. The wicked soldiers were scouring the country, searching for those "wicked people" who, true to their conscience, were reading their Bibles and acknowledging God in all their ways. Oh, how these poor people were hunted! and, like the wild beasts, they had to find a refuge in the caves and dens of the earth.

One day, as she was crossing the farmyard with milk to old Tib (her favourite cat) and her five kittens, a gruff voice startled her by asking, "Where are you taking that?"

"To the barn—to my father's barn yonder," she replied.

"And who is in the barn, I wonder?"

"Why, old Tib, my puss, and her five little kittens."

After further questions they were convinced that little Jeanie knew nothing about her father and mother and the stranger who was staying with them. However, they poked the straw in the barn with their swords, but thinking no one was hiding there they went away. To little Jeanie's surprise the soldiers had no sooner left when her father and mother and the stranger came out from their hiding-place.

Shortly after this Jeanie's parents were called away from home, but before leaving they told their little daughter why the soldiers had come. It was to take them and the stranger prisoner because they loved God and read the Bible. Jeanie was told that if the soldiers came when they were away from home she was not to tell them where the stranger was hiding.

The soldiers did come, and try as much as they liked they could not get the little girl to divulge the hiding-place. They searched in vain, but by Jeanie's faithfulness to her trust he was able to escape.

What a brave little girl! She was faithful to her parents, as every child should be. But, little friends, there is something far grander than that. What is it? Why, doing what God bids us. He says in His Word, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16. 31).

Are you going to be faithful to His Word now? He will be faithful to you, for "He is faithful that promised."

“MOTHER” AND “HOME”

THE greatest word is “God.” The deepest word is “Soul.” The longest word is “Eternity.” The swiftest word is “Time.” The nearest word is “Now.” The darkest word is “Sin.” The meanest word is “Hypocrisy.” The broadest word is “Truth.” The strongest word is “Right.” The tenderest word is “Love.” The sweetest word is “Home.” The dearest word is “Mother.” Elizabeth Stuart Phelps used to say that “everybody’s mother is a remarkable woman.”

In that sentence you may find a kind criticism and a great compliment. **There is no human name so enshrined in humanity’s affection as the name of “Mother.”** Everything, for most of us, which is sweet, beautiful, lovely, and holy, clusters about that name. Think of mother and you think of home. Think of home and you think of the Bible. Think of the Bible and you think of Christ. Think of Christ and you think of God.

To many a youth and maiden, a thousand miles away from home, the name of mother has the value of religion, pure and undefiled, and enshrined in a living personality.

“Mother” and “Home” are the tenderest notes on the keyboard of the human heart. Woe to the man who does not respond to the music of those two words.

JAMES L. GORDON. D.D.



TAKE MY HAND

LORD SHAFTESBURY, the keen Christian worker and lover of children, used to say that the proudest moment of his life was when a small child, in a crowded London thoroughfare thronged with people, made straight for him and, looking up confidently into his face, placed a tiny hand in his as he stooped down and asked to be taken across the roadway with all its bewildering traffic.

How our Father longs for us to trust Him like that! Life is full of dangers and difficulties, and instead of struggling and stumbling on in our own strength, often bewildered and afraid, if we would only slip our hand trustfully into His, how different everything would be.

Let Him be our Guide, for He has promised, “The Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not: I will help thee” (Isaiah 41. 13).

THANKS FOR DAILY MERCIES

WHENEVER I take my walks abroad
 How many poor I see!
 What shall I render to my God
 For all His gifts to me?
 Not more than others I deserve,
 Yet God has given me more:
 For I have food, while others starve,
 Or beg from door to door.

How many children in the streets
 Half naked I behold!
 While I am clothed from head to feet,
 And covered from the cold.
 Whilst some poor wretches scarce can tell
 Where they may lay their head,
 I have a home wherein to dwell,
 And rest upon my bed.

While others early learn to swear,
 And curse, and lie, and steal:
 Lord, I am taught Thy Name to fear,
 And do Thy holy will.
*Are these Thy favours day by day
 To me above the rest?*
**Then let me love Thee more than they,
 And try to serve Thee best.**

WATT'S.



COMING OUT OF THE TUNNEL

“WHAT a long tunnel, mummy,” said little George, “I thought we would never come out of it again.”

When the train with shrieking whistle had rushed into that dark tunnel he had moved up close to his mother and kept tight hold of her hand.

“Were you very frightened?” she asked.

“No, mummy,” George replied, “because I knew you were there all the time!”

Do you know that there are dark tunnels in all of our lives? There is first the tunnel of sin, entered by all, because “*all have sinned*,” and no one but the Lord Jesus Christ can bring us through and into the light of God’s love. He longs to take our hand, and to receive our heart’s trust and confidence as Saviour and Lord. One who trusted Him long ago said, “**I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded, that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him.**”

Then there are the tunnels of sorrow, trial, or, it may be, of persecution. How good it is to have One who is constantly beside us, for He has said ; “ **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**” He will bring us through every danger, and there are many in these days, and His promise, “ **Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world,**” is as true today as when first spoken.




SHUTTING DOORS

“ **EDWARD**, don’t look so cross when I call you back to shut the door ; you know grandmother feels the cold wintry wind : and besides, you will have to spend all your life shutting doors, and might as well begin now.”

“ Do forgive me, grandmother : I ought to be ashamed to vex you. But what do you mean ? I am going to college, and then I am going to be a lawyer.”

“ Well, admitting all that,” said his grandmother, “ I imagine you will have many doors to shut, even if you make much of a man.”

“ What kind of doors ? ” asked Edward.

“ Sit down a moment, and I will give you a list,” replied the old lady. “ In the first place, Edward, the door of your ears must be closed against bad language and evil counsel of the boys you will meet, or you will be undone. Let them once get possession of that door and I would not give much for your future prospects (Proverbs 4. 20–22). The doors of your eyes, too, must be shut against bad books and idle novels. The door of your lips will also need especial care, for they guard an unruly member which makes great use of the bad company let in at the doors of the eyes and ears (Proverbs 23. 26 : Psalm 119. 18). This door is very apt to blow open, and if not constantly watched will let out angry, trifling or vulgar words. It will backbite if left open too long, so keep it shut most of the time until you have something profitable to say (Psalm 34. 13 : Psalm 141. 3).

“ The inner door of your heart must be well shut against temptation, for conscience, the door-keeper, grows indifferent if you disregard his call. Then, though you may think you are doing very well, you are really grieving the Lord and His Spirit (Proverbs 4. 23).

“ So, if the outside doors of your ears, eyes and lips are guarded, you will keep out many cold blasts of sin which will otherwise get in before you think. This ‘ shutting doors,’ Edward, will be a serious business—one in which your well-being in this life and also in the next depends. You will therefore do well to follow the Psalmist who cried, ‘ Search me, O God, and know my heart : try me, and know my thoughts ; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting ’ ” (Psalm 139. 23, 24).

DAILY DUTIES

IT is often easier to do things which all the world can see and praise us for, than just those daily duties which God puts plainly in our way.

But it is those people who try to do everyday duties as well as they can, who really live the holiest lives, because they do not act in order to gain the praise of man, but to serve God in the station in which He has placed them (Ephesians 6. 5-8).



SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER

(2)

REPENTANCE

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

Repentance is perhaps rather a difficult subject. It is often said to be sorrow for sins. It includes this, but it is not this only. **It is a change of mind and is followed by a determination to do that only which is right in God's eyes.** You may think about your sins, and those sins may give you great distress, but this will not save you. A sense of sin will give you no claim to salvation. This conviction of sin, however, is a gift of the Saviour who is exalted on high to give repentance and remission of sins.

You remember the story of the Prodigal Son recorded in Luke 15. He left his father and his father's home. But there came a time when he regretted his evil ways. His sins caused him much sorrow. So long as he sat in the far country, however, he had no hope of being any better—he would only become worse there as he had neither friends nor money. **“I will arise and go to my father,” said he, “and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned.”** This is repentance. **“He arose, and came to his father.”** What a welcome he got! He was brought into the father's house, and into the good of the father's love, and all that the father possessed. This is salvation.

So repentance is not salvation but a stepping-stone to salvation. It was when the Prodigal thought of the kindness of his father and the abundance of the father's resources that he decided to make the turn towards home. **It is the goodness of God which leadeth men to repentance.** The love of God—His great goodness in giving the Lord Jesus Christ to save us by His death upon the cross—melts the heart and moves us to this change of mind and will.

Whilst repentance causes us to turn our backs upon the sins of the past, it leads us to new life in Christ. Repentance is spoken of as “toward God,” “to salvation” and “unto life.”

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.” This is a direct message to you. You are a sinner, you are on the wrong track, you need to be turned. **“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”** There is mercy and pardon for boys and girls who come as sinners to the Lord Jesus Christ. You are bidden to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel talks of salvation by believing. No amount of “good works” or “trying to do better” will save you. There must be submission to Christ. Come to Jesus just as you are. **“Repent ye and believe the Gospel.”**

Your affectionate Friend, C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS.

No doubt you are eagerly waiting for the prize list, so here it is. The girls have gained most this time, so now the boys must try very hard to see what they can do.

A Bible is being awarded to each of those in first class as before. I believe this kind offer is to be continued this year, so you *may* win one. But as you have so often been reminded, there is something, or I should say *some One* Who is better than all earthly prizes, and this is the chief reason why we continue to give you the Scripture Searching to do. Will you tell me in your next paper what *this Treasure* is?

Will the new Searchers please give chapter and verse, and also all of you try and send your papers in before the end of the first of the two months. If you cannot, for any special reason, they can always come later and marks will be given, but the names of course will be too late for insertion.

Your loving friend, E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR MARCH-APRIL, 1942

Subject REPENTANCE

1. What did John the Baptist preach? (Matthew 3.)
2. "Repent ye." Write out the verse where these words occur. (Mark 1.)
3. "Repent ye." Write out the verse beginning with these words. (Acts 3.)
4. What does God now command? (Acts 17.)
5. Whom did Jesus come to call to repentance? (Matthew 9.)
6. When shall there be joy in heaven? (Luke 15.)
7. What should be preached in His name? (Luke 24.)
8. Write out the verse which ends with "repentance." (2 Peter 3.)

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help.
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. Address Envelope—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2 oz., and post to reach by end of March. Answers from abroad may be sent alter, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year.

Prizes cease at the age of 16, but Searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings.

DECEMBER SEARCHERS

Age 14 years and over.

- 1st Class.—E. Bell, A. Berrill, W. Bewick, J. G. Binnie, M. Cain, D. Dewar, H. Foreman, B. Graham, A. Hodgins, C. Hodgins, H. Ingledew, M. McDonald, L. Morton, G. Norrie, H. Norrie, S. Oliver, E. Pill, E. Pugh, A. Reade, J. Renton, J. Ridley, D. Rogerson, K. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, J. D. Rugg, E. Stephenson, J. Stephenson, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, R. Webster, J. R. Willis, N. Wilson.
- 2nd Class.—E. Maill, J. Reid, J. Robertson, S. Smith.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

- 1st Class.—H. Baugh, M. Baugh, J. Bayliss, H. Beard, A. Boag, N. Bunce, N. Byass, O. Cain, P. Clacherty, E. Cottee, R. Crabb, S. Dunn, I. Faldon, M. Farmer, L. Gate, J. Greshon, B. Haggard, K. Haining, B. Hall, I. Halyburton, N. Hamilton, M. Handcock, S. Hartley, C. T. Harvey, G. Harvey, A. Hay, O. Higgins, J. Hince, B. Jackson, J. Jackson, D. Jolly, M. Kidd, R. McCrindle, L. McDermott, F. M. Messenger, A. Norrie, M. Pattison, A. Pratt, J. Pringle, R. Purvis, O. Rogers, B. Rogerson, K. Rugg, A. Shields, K. Shillitto, A. Simpson, R. Simpson, A. Spink, B. Stephenson, M. Thorn, R. Usher, W. Walker, M. Waugh, J. Woods.
- 2nd Class.—J. Diack, G. Forster, D. Kelly, A. Oliver, J. Pearson, E. Robertson, M. Robertson.

Age 10 years and under.

- 1st Class.—M. Abbey, R. Adams, S. Adams, M. Anderson, E. Auld, A. Barker, B. Baugh, F. Baugh, L. Bell, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, C. Blackburn, O. Byass, S. Carr, M. Christie, B. Clarke, G. Coutts, B. Delamore, K. Delamore, D. Dunn, K. Fairbairn, V. Fairbairn, R. Forster, S. Forster, K. Gardner, L. Gate, B. Greiff, D. Gfeiff, M. Gridale, P. Haggard, S. Handcock, A. Harbottle, R. Harbottle, O. Hart, J. Haughton, L. Henderson, B. Hodgins, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, V. Lawson, M. Malvern, D. Manson, M. Marsh, E. May, L. Nelthorpe, J. Payne, I. Peevor, F. Pringle, R. Robertson, H. Rogerson, J. Short, B. Spencer, A. Stephenson, G. Stuart, A. Thomas, J. Wharrier, L. Willis, F. Wilson.
- 2nd Class.—M. Appleton, C. Leach, R. Umpleby.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY SEARCHERS

Age 14 years and over.

- 1st Class.**—E. Bell, H. Bennett, J. G. Binnie, R. Brown, P. Hepple, A. Hodgins, C. Hodgins, G. Norrie, H. Norrie, E. Pill, A. Reade, J. Robertson, K. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, J. D. Rugg, B. Stephenson, E. Stephenson, J. Stephenson, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. R. Willis, N. Wilson, E. Winship.
- 2nd Class.**—A. Berrill, B. Graham, F. Inman.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

- 1st Class.**—H. Baugh, M. Baugh, J. Bayliss, J. D. Bennett, N. Bunce, P. Bunce, P. Christie, J. Clamp, E. Cottee, G. Duncan, K. Fairbairn, M. Farmer, B. Fitchett, J. Greshon, B. Haggard, K. Haining, M. Handcock, S. Hartley, C. Harvey, G. Harvey, A. Hay, G. Heal, J. Hince, M. Kidd, M. McConnachie, D. Manson, M. Messenger, K. Montgomery, A. Norrie, B. Page, J. Patterson, F. Pearson, J. Pearson, A. Pratt, R. Purvis, E. Robertson, J. Robertson, M. Robertson, A. Rogers, B. Rogerson, H. Rogerson, K. Rugg, D. Sealey, A. Shields, A. Simpson, R. Simpson, R. Stanley, J. Sumner, M. Thom, O. Turnbull, R. Usher, E. Wilkinson, J. Woodland, J. Young.
- 2nd Class.**—P. Clacherty, R. Crabb, M. Malvern, G. Mattingley, N. Ritchie, J. Robinson.

Age 10 years and under.

- 1st Class.**—M. Abbey, R. Adams, S. Adams, M. Anderson, A. Barker, B. Baugh, F. Baugh, L. Bell, M. Bendall, N. Binnie, C. Blackburn, O. Byass, S. Carr, D. Cockburn, M. Coles, G. Coutts, M. Dodds, R. Evans, M. Fairbairn, V. Fairbairn, T. Fairley, K. Gardner, B. Greiff, D. Greiff, P. Haggard, S. Handcock, A. Harbottle, R. Harbottle, O. Hart, D. Houghton, J. Houghton, E. Hayes, J. Hayes, B. Hodgins, A. Hodgson, P. Howitt, G. Johnston, R. Little, E. May, R. McConnachie, J. Morris, J. Nelson, R. Patterson, H. Pearson, D. Richardson, A. Robertson, S. Robertson, G. Simpson, Mary Simpson, Myrtle Simpson, B. Spencer, A. Stephenson, R. Stephenson, A. Thompson, M. Todd, M. Toll, L. Willis, F. Wilson, W. Young.
- 2nd Class.**—M. Appleton, M. Asbridge.

PRIZE LIST, DECEMBER, 1941

Age 14 and over

1. EILEEN STEPHENSON, 2, London Street, Pocklington, Yorks.
2. D. AUSTIN RUGG, 22, Shaftesbury Street, Stockton-on-Tees.
3. JOHN STEPHENSON, 2, London Street, Pocklington, Yorks.
4. ABIGAIL READE, College Farm, Ashbury, Swindon.

Age 11 up to 13 years

1. NANCY BUNCE, Cotswold Peep, Ashbury, Swindon.
2. JOYCE BAYLISS, 42, Woodall Road, Herringthorpe, Rotherham.
3. MARY MESSENGER, "Ramsey," West Road, Wigton, Cumberland.
4. MARGARET KIDD, 43, Dene Crescent, East Dene, Rotherham.

Age 10 years and under

1. ALAN BARKER, 14, South Drive, Brentwood, Essex.
2. DOROTHY MANSON, "Olna," Craigston Road, Johnstone, Renfrews.
3. ELEANOR MAY, 8, Crown Street, Aberdeen.
4. HERBERT ROGERSON, The Grange Farm, Glanton, Northumberland.

Short interesting articles containing the Gospel will be welcomed
by the Editor:—

J. H. RUGG, 22, SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

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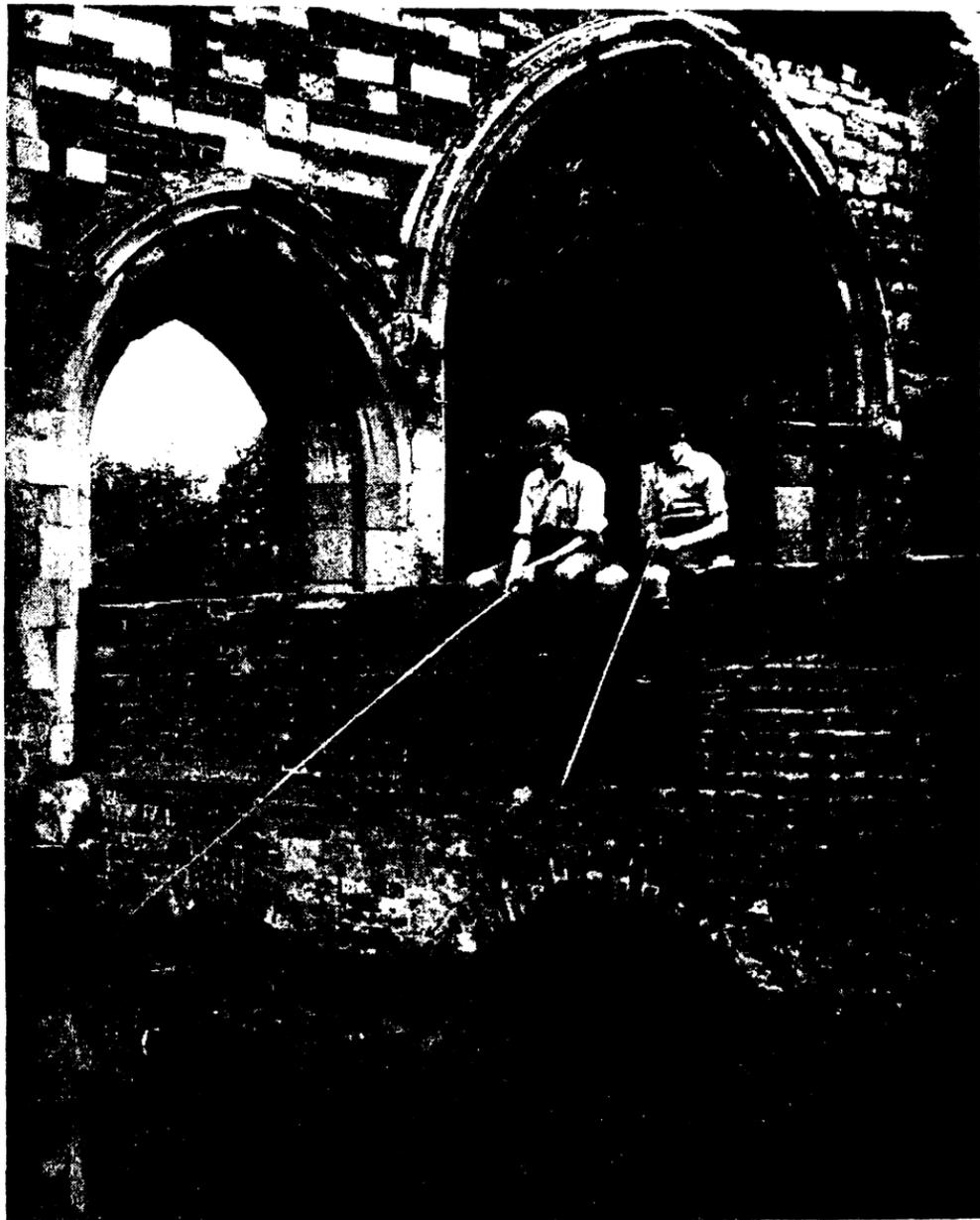
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Our Children



YOUTHFUL, BUT EXPECTANT FISHERMEN! [*Photo, J. H. Stone*]

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at New York, N.Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Published Bi-Monthly, 1½d. net or 1/3 per annum, post free.

LITTLE BUT WISE

IF we were to be asked to name an animal, little but exceeding wise, I wonder how many of us would include the coney in our list? Probably very few. Yet Solomon specially mentions the coney as one of the wise little creatures of the earth.

In his Book of Proverbs he says, "The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks."

But you exclaim, "The coney! why, its just an ordinary rabbit."

Well, it certainly is not unlike a bunny, but it is really different, though perhaps a far-out relation. It is when we examine the habits of the grey, furry little creature that we see what a wise animal it really is. Solomon's father, King David, wrote in Psalm 104. that the rocks are a refuge for the conies. The conies realize themselves what a feeble folk they are, for they have no weapons which they could use to protect themselves against an enemy, so they build their home away in a crevice of the rocks where their foes cannot reach them. Their little feet become very tough with constantly running about among the rocks, so they can run among the jagged masses of boulder where the great ambling bear and the loping wolf dare not follow in case their feet get cut on the rocky edges.

Thus we see that the rocks are indeed a refuge for the conies. And was it not good of the Creator to impart the wisdom, or instruction, to the feeble folk that tells them to build their home where they will be quite safe. We may well imagine a happy little coney sitting in peace, rest, and safety in a warm cleft of a great rock, and saying in coney-language, "My rock is my refuge."

Now, would it not be splendid if all boys and girls were able to say, "**The Lord is MY Rock and MY Salvation**"?

How willing the Lord is to shelter all who come to Him in faith saying, "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I."

In Jesus is perfect rest, peace and safety; and the temptations and dangers of life cannot harm those who are hiding in Him, our Rock, in a dreary land. Will you, my friend, take the lesson of the wise little coney and claim the Lord Jesus Christ as your Rock and your Salvation?



A QUESTION OF LIFE OR DEATH

TWO little boys were walking home from school, one afternoon, together. They had to walk a good part of the way by the side of a quickly-flowing stream, which by recent rain was greatly swollen.

The younger of the two, a venturesome boy, began to boast his ability to jump across to the other side. His companion

advised him not to attempt a feat accompanied by so great a danger, but in spite of his remonstrances Bob, the younger boy, determined to do it. So, laying down his books, he took a long run, and then with a bound, cleared the stream all right; but lo, his feet alighted on a mossy bank on the other side, which immediately gave way, and carried the boy with it into the stream.

He cried to his companion for help, but the lad was frightened that he could do nothing. The strong current quickly carried Bob along whilst his companion ran along the bank, wringing his hands, and crying piteously. Suddenly he remembered that a little way further on a small wooden bridge crossed the stream. He ran with all speed to reach it before Bob and found, as he expected, that the water nearly touched the edge of the planks, so laying himself flat on these he stretched out his arm at full length to catch his companion.

It was a moment of intense excitement to the boy, for if Bob missed his grasp, his last chance was gone. "Lay hold of my arm, Bob," he shouted, and Bob, with a death-like grasp, gripped the outstretched arm, and with a struggle was landed, almost unconscious, on the bank. How thankful he was that he did not miss that last chance of being rescued.

But every unsaved boy and girl is in a similar position to Bob, the schoolboy. They are carried by time's quick-flowing stream on to death, judgment, and eternity. No power of their own can save them from their sins or the punishment that they deserve. But Jesus, with outstretched arms, has come to save. Have you trusted Him? If not, do so now.



THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS

(LUKE 8. 42)

"I WONDER why Maud Leslie cares so much about the Bible-class, the prayer meeting, and all these sort of things?" said Julia Stephens. "It is all well enough for old people who are near to dying, to do so, but Maud is only fourteen, and has plenty of time to think about religion afterwards."

And yet Jairus's daughter, only twelve years old, lay a-dying. Truly has the poetess written: "Thou hath all seasons for thine own, but death!"

Many are called away in the days of their youth. Well, then, it is for both young and old to pray with the Psalmist, "**Teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.**"

What kind of wisdom? That of going, in a childlike spirit, to the feet of Jesus, asking Him to take us as His own, to wash us from all our sins in His precious blood and to teach us so to

live to His glory that should death come we may hail it as the messenger sent to bear us to the Golden City.

Paul could say, to *live* was Christ; therefore, to him to die was gain; and all who live for Christ may safely leave their death to His charge, for whether this comes or not, all is well. Jairus's little daughter lay a-dying, yea, and passed through the gates of death; but the Divine Healer laid His hands on her, and said, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise," and her spirit came again to her.

Dear reader, have you been at the gates of death, and yet, like Jairus's daughter been raised by the Lord, spared yet a while, for what? To live only for your own pleasure? Nay; but to Him, who spared you, that you might bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

"I should not like to die yet," said a youth who had lately learnt to trust in and love the Lord Jesus.

"Why not?" said a friend; "Do you not believe that your soul is saved?"

"Yes, but I'd like to live—

That yet some sinner I might tell of Jesus' dying love;

And help to lead some youthful soul to seek a home above."

I daresay Jairus's daughter would gladly tell her companions about the wonderful Saviour who had restored her to life, and spoken so kindly to her.

"Mother," said a young girl, who at the age of eleven was dying, "I'm not afraid, for Jesus is with me. Sing:—

"Death with its arrows may soon lay us low;

Safe in the Saviour we fear not the blow."

If she had followed Julia Stephens's advice and put off seeking Jesus until she was old, could she have spoken thus? No; so for yourself remember that God has said, "Behold, **NOW** is the accepted time; behold, **NOW** is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6. 2).

M. H.



THE HAPPY HOME

HAPPY the home when God is there, and love fills every breast:
Where *one* their wish, and *one* their prayer, and *one* their
heavenly rest.

Happy the home when Jesu's Name is sweet to every ear:
Where children early lisp His fame, and parents hold Him dear.

Happy the home where prayer is heard and praise is wont to rise:
Where parents love the Sacred Word, and live but for the skies.

Lord, let us in our homes agree this blessed peace to gain:
Unite our hearts in love to Thee, and love to all will reign.

FOUND AND BROUGHT HOME

SEVERAL years ago I came across a little boy in the north of London who had lost his way. My attention was attracted to him as he was standing by the side of the road crying. He was able to tell me his address, which happened to be not very far away. When we arrived there, we found his mother standing at the door anxiously looking out for him; and I learnt from her that the child had been forbidden to go out, but he had been naughty and disobeyed her. She was quite delighted to see him back again, and very grateful to me for restoring him to her.

As I walked home I had time to think how much that little boy was like us all by nature, and I would like your attention for a moment or two while I tell you the thoughts that ran through my mind. First of all, the little boy was told not to leave his home, but that was the very thing he did. Now the Word of God warns us not to sin, but where is the one who can say that he has not sinned nor wandered away from God? God's Word says, "All have sinned" (Romans 3. 23), and that "we have turned everyone to his own way" (Isaiah 53. 6).

What then is to be done? With regard to the little boy, it seemed more by chance that I came along; but God has left nothing to chance. Knowing that all had become lost, He sent His only begotten Son to find them and bring them home. And when Jesus the Son of God was upon earth He said, "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." He not only knew that His creatures were lost, but He knew where to find them. *And through their sin they were so exposed to death that He Himself must die to deliver them.* **And this He did.** What wonderful love! Ought we not all to be ready to honour Him by confessing Him as our Saviour, Lord and our Deliverer?

Now when He has found the lost ones, what does He do? Does He whip them, and drive them hurriedly home before Him? Oh, no! He just picks them up and lays them across His shoulders so glad and happy that He has saved them. Think of the joy of that dear mother and then consider how much deeper is the joy of Jesus, when He has found a lost one, and it is safely upon His shoulders.

Will you, dear young friend, just stop where you are, turn round, and run safely into His loving arms? He will *never* let you go till He brings you safely into the Father's house on high.

W. G.



GRACE

THIS title may make some readers think that I am going to tell them something about a girl with the name of Grace. I have heard of a man who made a similar mistake. Mr. Moody, the great evangelist, was studying what the Bible says about grace, and he became so deeply impressed by what he read that he hurried out into the street and stopping the first man he met asked him, "Do you know grace?" "Grace what?" was the surprised question. "The grace of God that brings salvation to all men," replied Mr. Moody.

Perhaps you ask, "But what *is* grace?" "God's favour," says one. "God's pity," says another. "God's love," says a third. Each of these answers has truth in it, but does not go far enough. **The grace of God that brings salvation** is the favour, the pity, and the love of God, *to those who don't deserve* these blessings.

There are three ways by which you can become possessed of a thing. You can either inherit it, earn it, or receive it as a free gift. When a man dies, his belongings pass to his heir, who becomes possessed of the property in virtue of his title. Now you may be the son or daughter of godly parents but that does not make you a Christian. *To have a believing father or mother gives you no title to heaven.*

But what about the second way? Many young people, whenever they think about God at all, imagine that they have to win God over to be kind to them. In other words, they want to *buy* salvation—they try to *earn* eternal life. And they think that if they try hard enough, God will by and by reward their good works by forgiving them their sins and taking them to heaven. Now this is a very common but a very great and very terrible mistake.

There is one other way of becoming possessed of a thing, and *that is by receiving it as a free gift*; and that is just how we are to become possessors of salvation.

The Gospel is the glad tidings of God's grace shown in the gift of His Son. **Receive the Lord Jesus as your own Saviour and the right and title of a child of God will be yours.**

Perhaps your name is Grace; I wonder if you know the grace of God! But whatever your name may be, ask God to show you yourself as He sees you. If you really know yourself, you know that you are a lost sinner and deserve nothing but punishment. Christ is waiting to save unworthy ones. Take the Lord Jesus *now* as your Saviour and *you will know grace.*

E. A.



SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (3) FAITH

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

Faith is really a very simple thing. We exercise faith in many ways every day of our lives. In the Old Testament it is often spoken of as "trust." Sometimes it means taking refuge in God or putting our confidence in Him. There are persons in the world whom we *can* trust, and there are persons whom we *cannot* trust. One thing is certain, we cannot have confidence in anyone whom we do not know. **The Lord Jesus Christ is put before us as an object of faith. "Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." True faith is confidence in a living, loving Saviour. It is believing in the power and love of Jesus. It is knowing what Jesus is and what He can do.**

God's Gospel is that we may be saved in a minute—all the sins which we have committed may be washed away at once. Of course, God cannot look upon sin with indifference. But the Lord Jesus Christ died in our behalf, the Just for the unjust. Because of the work of Christ, salvation is a gift. God offers it without money and without price.

This is good news, but many people will not believe it—they raise all sorts of difficulties. It is not for us, however, to question God's way of salvation. If you were offered a present, you would take it with thankfulness. If you wanted to go to a distant town, you would step on to the train without question and quite expect to reach your destination. If you wished to cross the river, you would trust yourself to the bridge—the bridge is strong enough for the hundreds of people who daily cross it and it is strong enough for *you*.

Faith is the hand which receives what God presents to you. When God holds out to you salvation by Jesus Christ, you need not ask anything further about it, but just take it to yourself and be at once saved. Do not try to be anything, or do anything, but trust what Jesus is and did.

Further, true faith continues and is active. It is a principle which not only leads us to salvation from our sins but helps us to lay hold upon the promises and the power of God. When we accept the Saviour, He comes to abide with us by faith. He is in us, enabling us to overcome every form of temptation; in us, strengthening us to bear up under trial; in us, enabling us to live as we ought to live.

We are saved by faith—we are united to Christ by faith—we live by faith—we stand by faith—we walk by faith. The whole life of the Christian is one of faith. Human effort will last but a little while, but the life united to Christ by faith will move on for ever from victory to victory.

Your affectionate Friend, C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

I am glad to see some new Searchers' names, and I trust they will find the Scripture Searching a help to them. All these have left out chapter and verse, and so are in second class: D. Cockburn, R. Little, B. Furnues, I. Swendle, M. Browell, L. Nelthorpe, G. Snedden, B. Lee, and V. Hill. A few of you are writing out the questions. There is no need to do this. Laura Gate must answer six questions.

Yes, the Treasure which I spoke about in my last letter is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. What a priceless possession! Is He *yours*? Your loving friend, E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR MAY-JUNE, 1942

Subject—FAITH

1. How does faith come? (Romans 10.)
2. How is a man justified? (Romans 3.)
3. How are we saved? (Ephesians 2.)
4. "From a child." Write out the verse where these words occur. (2 Timothy 3.)
5. What had made this man strong? (Acts 3.)
6. What is more precious than gold? (1 Peter 1.)
7. What have we to add to our faith? (2 Peter 1.)
8. How do we understand that the worlds were framed? (Hebrews 11.)

MARCH-APRIL SEARCHERS

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class.—B. Beckett, E. Bell, H. Bennett, A. Berrill, W. Bewick, R. Brown, E. Cottee, C. Hodgins, H. Houston, F. Inman, G. Norrie, H. Norrie, W. O'Brien, S. Oliver, E. Pill, A. Reade, J. Reid, J. Renton, D. Rice, J. Robertson, D. Rogerson, K. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, J. D. Rugg, R. Smith, B. Stephenson, E. Stephenson, J. Stephenson, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. R. Willis, N. Wilson, E. Winship.

2nd Class.—A. Fisher, B. Page.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1st Class.—H. Baugh, M. Baugh, G. Baxter, J. Bayliss, J. Bennett, A. Binnie, N. Bunce, N. Byass, P. Christie, P. Clacherty, R. Crabb, J. Diack, S. Dunn, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, M. Farmer, J. Greshon, B. Haggard, K. Haining, S. Hartley, C. Harvey, A. Hay, G. Heal, J. Hince, B. Hodgins, J. Hughes, B. Jackson, J. Jackson, M. Kidd, J. Leel, N. Lovett, M. McConnachie, M. Malvern, D. Manson, G. Mattingley, F. M. Messenger, J. H. Mitchell, K. Montgomery, A. Norrie, E. O'Brien, J. Patterson, A. Pratt, A. Rice, A. Robertson, E. Robertson, J. Robertson, A. Rogers, B. Rogerson, K. Rugg, D. Scaley, A. Shields, R. Stanley, M. Tait, E. Taylor, M. Thom, E. Thompson, O. Turnbull, R. Usher, E. Wilkinson, J. Young.

2nd Class.—H. Beard, G. Forster, Laura Gate, I. Swindle.

Age 10 years and under.

1st Class.—M. Abbey, R. Adams, S. Adams, M. Anderson, E. Auld, A. Barker, B. Baugh, F. Baugh, L. Bell, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, C. Blackburn, S. Carr, G. Coutts, M. Dodds, D. Dunn, M. Easton, R. Evans, M. Fairbairn, V. Fairbairn, T. Fairley, Lois Gate, I. Gilchrist, B. Greiff, D. Greiff, R. Griffiths, P. Haggard, A. Harbottle, R. Harbottle, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, J. Hayes, A. Hodgson, P. Howitt, R. Hutchinson, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, V. Lawson, M. Marsh, E. May, R. McConnachie, P. Moore, J. Nelson, J. O'Brien, R. Patterson, H. Pearson, D. Richardson, A. Robertson, S. Robertson, J. Short, G. Simpson, Mary Simpson, B. Spencer, A. Stephenson, R. Stephenson, G. Tait, A. Thomas, S. Thomas, G. Thompson, M. Thompson, M. Todd, J. White, L. Willis.

2nd Class.—M. Browell, D. Cockburn, M. Coles, R. Forster, S. Forster, R. Little, L. Nelthorpe, J. Straight, G. Taber, H. Wharrier, J. Wharrier.

Correct papers for January-February have also been received from: G. Baxter, A. Rice, D. Rice, E. Anderson, J. Mitchell, S. Greenstone, M. Norval, S. Norris, S. Edens, R. Simm, M. Stewart, C. Peevor, B. Clugston, R. McCrindle, J. Clugston, J. Edgar, S. Binnie, F. Pringle, H. Beard, E. Auld, M. Marsh, M. Browell, B. Furnues, M. Grisdale, D. Jolly, E. Taylor, V. Lawson, J. Brough, B. Lee, N. Rogers, V. Hill, J. Jackson, M. Tait, G. Foster, R. Foster, G. Tait.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

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2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help.
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2 oz., and post to reach by end of May. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year.

Prizes cease at the age of 16, but Searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings.

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J. H. RUGG, 22, SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

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Our Children



THE LITTLE FLOWER GATHERER.

[Photo, J. H. Stone

THE CHILDREN'S VERSE

YOU know that all over the world there are many little children; some are white, like you, some are brown, some are black, and some are a sort of in-between colour. And all over the world wherever the Bible goes there is a verse which all these children love as soon as they hear it. Whether they live in England or China, in Egypt or India, in America or Japan, or anywhere else, wherever they live and whatever colour they are, they all love this verse, for it tells about them, and something they can do. Do you know what it is?

Long ago in the land of Judea the Lord Jesus was teaching the people one day beside the river Jordan, and answering the questions which they asked Him. Among those who came were some mothers who had brought their little children, for they wanted Him to put His hands upon them and bless them. The disciples told them to go away, for they thought that the Lord was too busy talking to grown-up people to have any time for children. But *He* did not think so. He was never too busy for the children to come, and He was "much displeased" with those who tried to send them away.

Do you know what He said? It was this—"Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not" (Mark 10. 14). And then He took the children up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.

That is the verse which all children love. You know it, don't you? If we put it into easy words which even baby children can understand, it just means, "Let the children come to Me, and don't tell them not to come."

Perhaps you have heard the chorus:—

"Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white,
All are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world."

Have *you* come to Him yet?

K. I. B.



HARRY AND FLO

IN a fisherman's cot, on the shores of the North Sea, with high cliffs on either side, there are two happy souls who know and love the Lord Jesus. Harry and Flo were saved and made happy in the Lord some years ago. "Shall I tell you how?"

An uncle came across from America to see their mother, and he was a lover of the Lord. Gathering the children of the village together on the Lord's day afternoons, on the beach, he told them of Jesus and His love.

One afternoon, while he was speaking of the sufferings of Christ on the cross, Flo sat sobbing as if her heart would break. Uncle Henry asked if she were ill. "Oh, no," Flo replied, "but I am sorry my sins made Jesus suffer so much."

"Yes, Flo," said her uncle, "but He wants you to believe that His precious blood will cleanse them all away."

Flo was saved that day and Harry a week after. They told me the story of their conversion as they sat on the rocks baiting their father's line for the fishing, and had you seen their happy faces you would not have doubted its reality.

Reader, can you tell of your conversion ?



THE NEEDLE'S EYE

THE Lord Jesus called a young man to follow Him. The young man longed to do so—but—but—he had such great possessions, how could he leave them all? *So he went away sorrowful*; and Jesus sighed as He saw him go. He knew that this young man would never rest on earth again. The treasures he had chosen in place of Jesus and His kingdom would never satisfy him now.

"How hard it is for them that have riches to enter into the Kingdom of God," said Jesus, as the young man was lost to sight in the crowd. The disciples looked surprised. Could the Master really mean that it was wrong to be rich? Jesus read their thoughts and saw that they were thinking a mistake. "Children," He said, "how hard is it for them that *trust* in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God" (Mark 10. 24-25).

A girl or boy from Europe in that Eastern crowd listening to the words of Jesus, would wonder if He meant that it was easier for a camel to walk through the eye of a sewing needle than for a person with great possession to enter the kingdom. I think the Master would have taken the hand of His little Western friend, explained about the Needle's Eye, and shown the one in the Gate of Jerusalem.

The city gate was closed at sunset, and late travellers must knock at the small doorway which is fitted into the great closed-up city gate. It is the "strait gate," the low narrow one at which the watchman carefully admits one traveller at a time.

Here comes an Arab on a camel, with his tent and household goods rolled into large bulky packages, and slung on either side of the camel's hump. If he is a trader, he has yards of silk and bags of treasure added to the luggage. The camel with his burden is far too broad to pass through the little gate called the Needle's Eye, so the Arab alights and at a word from him the

camel kneels down to be unloaded. His burdens are taken off, and now he feels comfortably free from loads. As the Needle's Eye opens, he gets up, ducks his head, and walks through as nicely as a camel can.

It was not possible for the camel to pass through laden as he was, but when cleared of the burdens as kneeling before his master, he got through.

And so Jesus continued, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God *all things* are possible." If the good things they possess keep some men and women from following Jesus, He can, if they are willing, loosen their hearts from those treasures, so that they shall not miss the glorious riches He has prepared for those who acknowledge Him in truth as Saviour and Lord.

There are some children who have more than they want—more toys, more sweets, and more pennies than their play-mates—yet they do not care to share or to pass on any of their nice things to others who have very little. Whatever your position, ask the Lord to give you a large heart; such a big, loving, unselfish heart, that, when you are grown up, all the wealth in the world would not hold you back from following Jesus. Start now by coming to Him, rendering thanks for dying as your substitute, and seek His grace and strength to be one of His true followers.

B. C.



RESCUED FROM THE FLAMES

MANY years ago a friend of mine was awakened in the middle of the night by a cry of "FIRE!"

Hastily dressing, he ran out to help and found his neighbour's house in flames. All the inmates had already been rescued, except one little girl who lay asleep in the top room. Oh, what agony the mother was in! My friend determined to try and save her, even though he may lose his life in the attempt. So he rushed up the burning staircase, the flames catching his face and causing him intense pain.

Soon he reached the room in which the child lay sleeping, quite unconscious of her danger, and catching her up, he hastily fastened his big greatcoat all round her and dashed back down the stairs, the fire burning him badly.

How eagerly and thankfully the mother received her darling child, who was unhurt in any way. About five minutes after the little girl had been handed to her mother, the roof fell in with a crash. So you see that she was saved *just in time*.

Perhaps you, like that little girl, have not known your danger,

but have been sleeping on in sin, not thinking that at any moment you might die and your soul be for ever lost. Listen to the good news that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.** Will you accept this great salvation *now*, and be saved for all eternity?



COME!

JESUS is calling the children to come to Him,
Over the meadows and through the quiet lane;
Calling so clearly, His voice is pure melody,
Sweeter than lilt of blackbird's refrain.

Jesus is calling the children to come to Him,
Through the vast city and down the long street;
Low and distinct to the heart that is listening,
Softer than bell with its wooing repeat.

Jesus is calling, oh, children, run fast to Him;
Come with your lessons, your play and your toys;
Bring Him your youth and your laughter, carolling.
Dear blessed Saviour of *all* girls and boys.

Wonderful Saviour! how bright is His company;
Deep is His friendship, *all friendships above*;
Ever the same from to-day through eternity—
JESUS, the spotless perfection of love.

Come, little maidens, come, lads, do you hear His call?
Give Him yourself—He has given His all.



A PRINCE AND HIS BIBLE

THE learned Prince of Granada, heir to the Spanish throne, imprisoned by the order of the Crown for fear he should aspire to the throne, was kept in solitary confinement in the old prison at the Place of Skulls, Madrid. After thirty-three years in this living tomb, death came to his release, and the following remarkable researches taken from the Bible and *marked with an old nail on the rough walls of his cell* told how his brain sought employment through the weary years of his imprisonment.

In the Bible the word "Lord" is found 1853 times.

The word "Jehovah," 6855 times.

The word "reverend" *once*, in Psalm 111. 9.

The eighth verse of the ninety-seventh Psalm is the middle verse of the Bible.

The ninth verse of the eighth chapter of Esther is the longest.

The thirty-fifth verse of John 11. is the shortest.

In Psalm 107. four verses are alike—the eighth, fifteenth, twenty-first, and thirty-first.

Each verse of Psalm 136. ends alike.

No names or words with more than six syllables are found in the Bible.

The thirty-seventh chapter of Isaiah and nineteenth chapter of 2 Kings are alike.

The word "girl" occurs but once in the Bible—Joel 3. 3.

There are in both parts of the Bible, 3,538,483 letters ; 773,693 words ; 31,373 verses ; 1189 chapters ; and 66 books.

The twenty-sixth chapter of the Acts is the finest to read.

The most beautiful chapter is Psalm 23.

The four most inspiring promises are John 14. 2 ; 7. 37 ; Matthew 11. 28 ; and Psalm 37 4.

The first verse of Isaiah 55 is the one for the new convert.

All who flatter themselves with vain boastings should read Matthew 6.

All humanity should learn the sixth chapter of St. Luke, from verse twenty to its ending.

May we not conclude, by the references to Acts 26., Psalm 23., John 14. 2, and John 7. 37, that the Prince not only found the Bible an interesting book during those weary years, but his weary soul found peace in believing? How the love of Christ would sustain his spirit, and the blessed promise of John 14. 2—which he quoted—would fix the heart upon a brighter crown than the Spanish throne could offer, and upon a heavenly kingdom.

What is the Word of God to *you*, reader? Think for a moment! If you knew you were about to spend thirty-three years in solitary confinement and were allowed *one* book, what would you choose? Would it be the latest novel? Think of spending thirty-three years alone, with *only* a novel to fill up your time. Or would a book of science be what you would choose to the exclusion of any other? I trow not. Little as you may care for the Bible, you know right well that *it* alone could fill the vacuum, if every earthly thing were suddenly snatched from you. Its words of comfort and cheer are as healing balm to the broken heart, and when the light of life goes out, where the heart has taken in its blessed message, and found in Christ Jesus a Saviour, the eventide is lighted with eternal hope.

It is indeed the Book of books, and will abide when every other book has passed into eternal oblivion. Its Author is God. Its theme is Christ. It is capable of satisfying every craving of the human heart, and opens up to the wondering gaze visions of the eternal.

May you learn to prize it as a veritable treasure.

J. W. H. NICHOLS.

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS

CORNER (4)

SALVATION

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

Many years ago there lived in Jerusalem a good old man. He seems to have been a man of very quiet habits, who loved—rather than the bustle of the city—the quiet temple courts. Day by day he made his way to the temple, and we can imagine that all his time was spent in communion with God and lingering in the precincts of the sacred place. He was old; his days on earth would not now be many, but he had a secret. In his heart he knew something which all the great people who came along did not know. The High Priest was learned, but this thing was hidden from him—the Rabbi did not know the secret—the worshipping people were ignorant of the thing. It was a most blessed secret and it made the old man happy. What was it? **He knew that the Messiah was coming and he had been told by the Holy Ghost that he would not die until his eyes had rested upon the Lord's Christ.**

I am sure that he would wonder each morning as he walked along to the temple if this would be the great day. Would he see the Messiah to-day? So the time passed. But, at last, one day he saw a humble couple coming into the temple. The husband was a carpenter from Galilee, carrying his small offering. His wife carried her first-born Son whom she was to present before God according to the law. At once the Spirit filled the heart of the aged saint and told him that this was the answer to all God's promises and that the infant Child was the Messiah.

He went forward and took the Babe in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word: for mine eyes have seen Thy *Salvation*."

That Babe was Jesus—that old man was Simeon. Simeon saw in Jesus, God's salvation. Salvation for himself—salvation for all—and he could not be satisfied until he had taken this Saviour into his arms and given God thanks.

Salvation is not something hard; it is not procured by doing something great on our part; it cannot be bought with money. **Salvation is bound up in a Person—the Lord Jesus Christ.** It is a Person in whom we are to trust. He came from heaven for us. He came to effect the great work of salvation. He came to *save*. He died taking the sinner's place. By that death on Calvary's cross, the work of salvation has been completed. So every boy and girl to-day may freely accept God's salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Have *you* accepted God's salvation?

Your affectionate friend, C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

It is nice to see some new names this month, and also some who used to do the Scripture Searching. I hope you will try and continue.

Some of the questions were a little hard, so I have allowed marks to some who were not quite correct in their answers. Though I am sure if you just quietly thought a little first you *would* find the correct answer.

J. Morris, P. New and J. Leck must give chapter and verse. O. Hart must try and write plainer.

Your loving friend, E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR JULY-AUGUST, 1942

Subject—SALVATION

1. Why were they to stand still? (Exodus 14.)
2. Write out the verse which ends with "trouble." (Psalm 37.)
3. Write out the verse which mentions "my salvation." (Psalm 27.)
4. What did Jonah say about salvation? (Jonah 2.)
5. "Neither . . . saved." Write out the whole verse where these words occur. (Acts 4.)
6. Why was not Paul ashamed of the gospel? (Romans 1.)
7. What is made with the mouth? (Romans 10.)
8. What is nearer now than when we believed? (Romans 13.)

MAY-JUNE SEARCHERS

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class.—H. B. Bennett, W. Bewick, R. Brown, P. Clacherty, E. Cottee, H. Foreman, C. Hodgins, F. Inman, L. Morton, G. Norrie, H. Norrie, N. Norval, W. O'Brien, S. Oliver, E. Pill, E. Pugh, A. Reade, J. Reid, J. Renton, D. Rice, J. Ridley, J. Robertson, D. Rogerson, K. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, J. D. Rugg, M. Spicer, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. R. Willis, E. Winship.

2nd Class.—E. Bell, A. Berrill, A. Bone, J. Edgar, D. Holmes, N. Lees, S. Smith.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1st Class.—M. Aitkenhead, J. Akenhead, H. Baugh, M. Baugh, G. Baxter, J. Bayliss, M. Bell, J. D. Bennett, A. Boag, N. Bunce, P. Bunce, N. Byass, M. Christie, P. Christie, B. Clugston, J. Dawson, J. Diack, D. Dodd, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, I. Faldon, M. Farmer, B. Fitchett, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, R. Gurkin, B. Haggard, N. Hamilton, M. Handcock, A. Harbottle, S. Hartley, A. Hay, G. Heal, O. Higgins, B. Hodgins, M. Holmes, B. Jackson, J. Jackson, J. Leel, M. McConnachie, E. MacCormack, R. McCrindle, L. McDermott, M. McIntosh, V. McIntosh, F. M. Messenger, K. Montgomery, A. Norrie, E. O'Brien, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, C. Peevor, A. Pooles, A. Pratt, J. Pringle, A. Rice, E. Robertson, M. Robertson, A. Rogers, B. Rogerson, H. Rogerson, K. Rugg, A. Shields, A. Stephenson, M. Tait, R. Usher, M. Waugh, E. Wilkinson.

2nd Class.—R. Crabb, G. Forster, Laura Gate, K. Haining, G. Mattingley, O. Turnbull.

Age 10 years and under.

1st Class.—M. Abbey, R. Adams, S. Adams, M. Anderson, A. Barker, B. Baugh, F. Baugh, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, M. Browell, J. Clugston, M. Coles, G. Coutts, V. Disbury, M. Dodds, S. Drury, M. Easton, R. Evans, M. Fairbairn, V. Fairbairn, K. Gardner, I. Gilchrist, B. Greiff, D. Greiff, R. Griffiths, P. Haggard, S. Handcock, R. Harbottle, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, J. Hayes, L. Henderson, R. Hutchinson, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, G. Johnson, R. Little, M. Marsh, E. May, R. McConnachie, J. Nelson, L. Nelthorpe, M. Norval, J. O'Brien, R. Patterson, I. Peevor, F. Pringle, R. Robertson, M. Robertson, N. Rogers, J. Short, R. Simm, B. Spencer, J. Spicer, G. Taber, G. Tait, G. A. Thompson, M. Todd, L. Willis.

2nd Class.—L. Bell, R. Forster, S. Forster, Lois Gate, C. Leach, P. Moore, P. New, R. Richardson, A. Thompson, G. Thompson.

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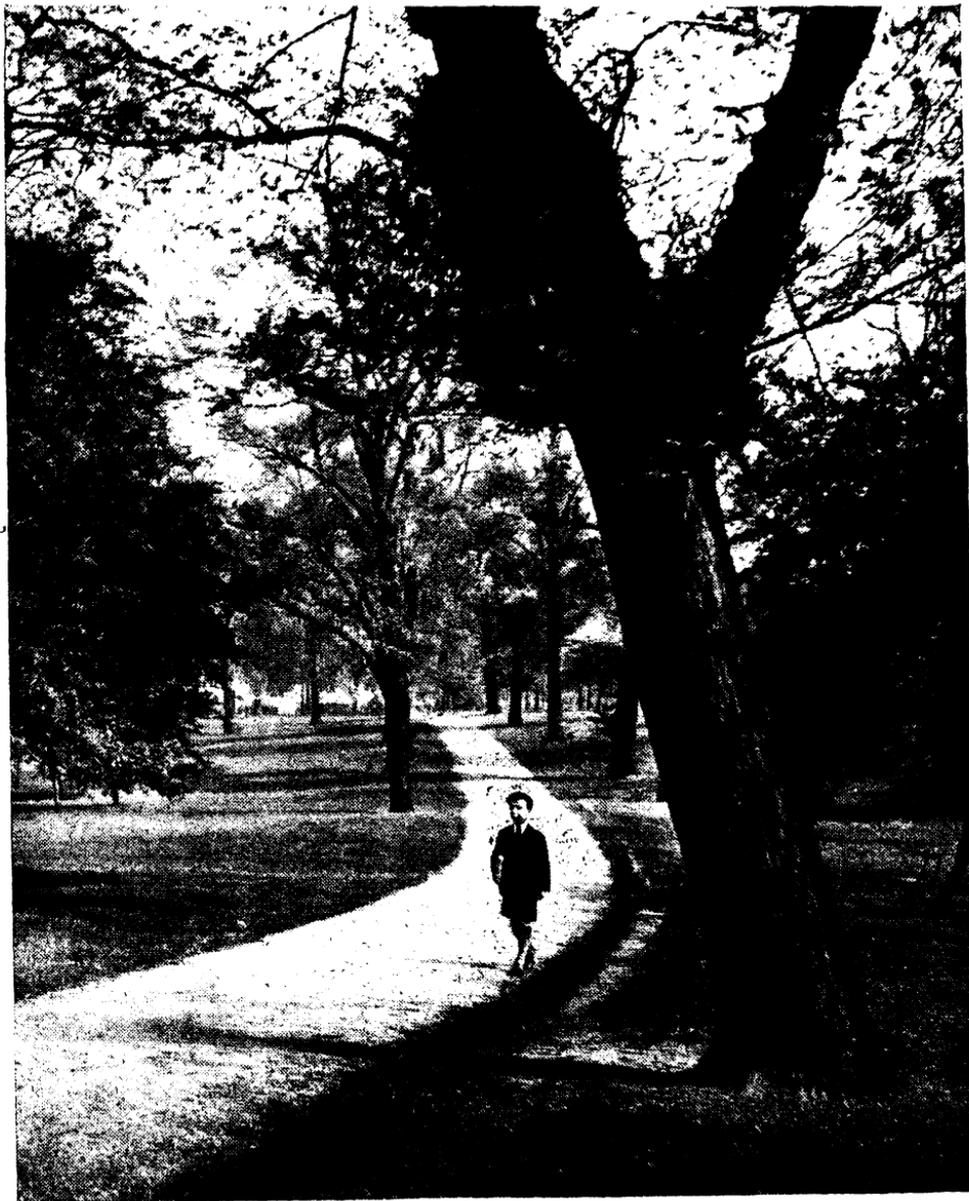
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35 cents per annum, post free.

Published Bi-Monthly.



Our Children



A WALK IN THE GREEN PARK, LONDON.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at New York, N.Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Published Bi-Monthly, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. net or 1/3 per annum, post free.

LITTLE TOMMY

A POOR home, a drunken father, a mother with a breaking heart, and their child of ten, little Tommy—once a happy, bounding child filled with the joy of existence. His life had been shadowed and his spirit well nigh broken by his father becoming a drunkard, his emaciated body bearing many a mark of the father's blows.

The meek and gentle mother gave Tommy all the love she could to compensate for a father's blows and curses, and told him of the "Friend of little children." One day Tommy went to a children's service and heard the story of Jesus and how He died to save them from their sins. Tommy *heard, believed, and was saved.* He came home singing :—

" I do believe, I will believe,
That Jesus died for me ;
That on the Cross He shed His blood,
From sin to set me free."

And the angels stoop to listen to the song ; and they say as they see the fragile form of the singer, " Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Home is reached—little Tommy runs in at the door singing as he enters :—

" I do believe, I will believe,
That Jesus died for me."

With a curse the drunken father says, " Stop that singing." The boy answers, " But father, ' I do believe, I will believe, that Jesus died for me.' "

" If you do not stop I will thrash you " ; and he looks at a stick leaning against the wall. The poor emaciated face of the boy is lit with a radiance never seen there before, and with a smile he says : " But father, I must sing for—

' I do believe, I will believe,
That Jesus died for me.' "

Devil-possessed, the father staggers for the stick, but the mother in terror intervenes. " Stop Tommy, stop ; do not anger your father " ; and to her husband she says, " He will go to bed, and I will take his supper to him there." She looks at Tommy with a mother's loving eyes, then at the father as she puts herself between them saying, " Let the boy go now." With a curse the father throws the stick aside, and with a " Good night, father," mother and child go upstairs together. The boy undresses, eats his frugal meal, and then tells his mother about the meeting and Jesus, and says, " Mother,

' I do believe, I will believe,
That Jesus died for me.' "

Her heart rejoices as she kisses him " Good night," prays for him and thanks God for her boy, weeping to see how frail he is. With a " Thank you, mother," from Tommy, she leaves the room and goes down to face her husband.

Oh, martyred Christian wives, wedded to drunken husbands, yours is the ministry of suffering, and through much tribulation you win your martyr's crown.

Half asleep, the drunkard growls out something as she enters the room. The mother clears the table and is tidying the room, when suddenly, as if an angel sang, there comes from Tommy's room the mellowed refrain :—

" I do believe, I will believe,
That Jesus died for me ;
That on the Cross He shed His blood,
From sin to set me free."

It rouses the devil in the man, and he rushes for his stick and is almost at the stairs before the mother can seek to frustrate his purpose. She seizes him by the arm, and with imploring voice begs him not to go upstairs ; *she* will go, and stop the boy from singing any more. He shouts and raves with murder in his heart. She drags him from the stairs, saying, "He shall not sing any more to-night." At last he lets her go, with threats, for still the voice is singing for God and His angels to hear,

" I do believe, I will believe,
That Jesus died for me."

The poor mother hurries upstairs leaving the blasphemer below, and half afraid he will follow, casts many a look backward. What passed between the mother and her boy we cannot tell, **but he sang no more.**

Next morning the father went to work and the mother waited to give her boy his breakfast. He was late in coming down, but he was tired, she thought, and it comforted her to think that he should rest after the storm of the night before.

She listens at the foot of the stairs and calls, " Tommy, Tommy." There is no answer and the house is strangely quiet. " He sleeps too long," she says, and slowly mounts the stairs to wake him with her love. She reaches his door at last and lingers outside to listen. What makes her linger? She cannot tell, but her heart beats painfully as she enters the room. **It seems empty,** although she sees Tommy from beneath the bedclothes, and speaks love's gentle chidings as she reaches the bed. His face looks beautiful, a smile upon it, but with breaking heart she feels that Tommy is not there. Her boy has gone from her—the singing bird has gone, and the cage is empty.

The dear face is cold, the hands are cold and the mother's tears come from a broken heart and fall upon his face, that will never smile for her on earth again. The lips she kisses will never call her " Mother " any more. **" Oh, Tommy, Tommy,"** wails the stricken mother.

Her woe beats against the gate of heaven asking for her child. In the night the angels had come to the room, and when they went little Tommy went with them, to see Jesus who had died for him.

Sorrowing mother, you *will* see your child again. Drunken father, what would you give now to hear the music of your son's last hymn on earth once more? **You cursed him and he died**; but if ever you want to see him again you must learn the truth of your boy's last hymn, and be able to say or sing:—

“ I do believe, I will believe,
That Jesus died for me;
That on the Cross He shed His blood,
From sin to set me free.”

And from that glory little Tommy seems to say to God's people on earth, “ Let little children such as I was be able to read about Jesus for themselves, so that they may believe in Him.”

H. WREFORD (*abridged*).



BELIEVE AND LIVE !

WHAT are we to believe? That we are blood-bought sinners. The Lord Jesus came down from heaven, died on the cross instead of us, and bought us with His own blood. “ In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins ” (Colossians I. 14). God says, “ When I see the blood I will pass over you ” (Exodus 12. 13). “ The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin ” (I John I. 7).

Oh, how wonderful that He should love me so much that He gave His life for mine ! A gentleman once went to see a friend who had many beautiful and valuable treasures. This friend showed him all over his house and at last paused before a tiger skin on the wall, exclaiming, “ I would sooner part with all my treasures than with this tiger skin.”

“ I have seen better and finer skins,” remarked the gentleman ; “ why do you value it so highly ? ”

“ Do you see that stain ? ” asked his friend. “ It is the stain of my brother's blood. We were out tiger hunting, and a wounded tiger sprang upon me and would have killed me had my brother not got between me and the infuriated animal. Before he could kill it it had wounded him so badly that he died. He gave his life for mine.”

Boys and girls, you and I who are saved can now say, “ The Son of God loved *me*, and gave Himself for *me* ” (Galatians 2. 20), and He has given us

Everlasting Life.

Have you said “ Thank You ” to Him ?

E. G. CLARKE.



TURN TO THE RIGHT !

A CHRISTIAN friend who has moved to a new country home sent me a letter in which she told me how to reach her new home. She lives on a hilltop which used to be called "Little Zion." It is the second highest point of the many hills around the lake in the valley.

My friend said drive through the village by the lake and continue a mile further to the gas station. Opposite this station is the beginning of the Lake Road. "Turn on to this road and go to the end of it," she wrote, "then *turn to the right*. Go to the end of that road and *turn to the right*. Continue on this road, which is a winding road on the hills, until you get to our mail-box and then *turn to the right*. When you get to the end of that road *turn to the right*, into the driveway that leads to our house."

You will see by these directions that in order to get to Little Zion it is necessary to find the right road to begin with, and then to keep *turning to the right*. The gas station stands opposite the beginning of the road, and without gasoline no car can run ; it has no power to move.

Now God has written us all a letter in which He tells us how to reach His home, the Heavenly Zion. From beginning to end of this letter, which we call the Bible, He keeps saying to us, "*Turn to the right !*"

We are travelling on the road which leads to Eternity. On that road there is a station opposite which is the beginning of the road which leads to the Heavenly Zion. That station is the Cross of Christ. **The Lord Jesus died on the Cross to deliver us from the wrath to come, and also to deliver us from the bondage of the devil, who would keep us turning to sin instead of to righteousness** (1 Thessalonians I. 10 ; Hebrews 2. 15). If we will stop at the Cross of Christ in true "repentance toward God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20. 21), we will find the road to Heavenly Zion that begins opposite the Cross, and will also receive power to follow our instructions to *turn to the right* as we go on our upward way.

There are so many turns to the right on that way that we need to carry God's letter with us and keep constantly referring to it as we go, that we may not take the wrong turn and have to retrace our steps, but always keep *turning to the right*.

MARY E. HORSEY.



FISHERMEN

I WONDER if you would like to read a story about some fishermen whom the Lord met just after they had finished their work?

I suppose you nearly always think of the Lord Jesus when you attend Sunday School, and inclined to forget about Him when at week-day school or at work. Well, perhaps some day He will be speaking to you when you are not at Sunday School, and remember then to be like Samuel—ready to listen.

Now about these fishermen. They were very disappointed just when the Lord met them. Although working very hard all night (for fishermen work at night), when they drew in their nets they had caught nothing. The Lord Jesus seeing that there were a lot of people waiting to hear Him got into one of the fishermen's boats and spoke from the boat. He had not forgotten the fishermen, so when He had finished speaking to the crowd on the shore, He turned to Simon, for that was his name. Did the Lord ask him if he was saved? No, He just told him to start fishing again. "Well," said Simon, "we have been fishing all night and caught nothing, but at Thy word we will let down the nets." And what full nets they caught! Read for yourselves in Luke 5. Did Simon thank the Lord for such a catch? No, he just wanted the Lord to leave him. Why? Well, Simon had found by this time that he was a sinful man and felt he was not fit for the holy presence of the Lord Jesus, so he said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." But the Lord did not go.

You remember perhaps the little hymn which says:—

"Christ receiveth *sinful men*."

so Simon was just the man the Lord was looking for.

There are two things I should like you each one to find out.

First—that you are sinful.

Second—that you are just the one the Lord Jesus is looking for.

Perhaps you do not see what made Simon discover he was sinful. Well, he had been *listening to the Lord*, and then when he was alone as it were, with the Lord, away from the crowd, he found that he was really sinful.

That is the way! Listen to Him and you will soon find out that you are a sinner. Listen to Him and you will find that you are the sinner whom He died to save. Confess Him as your Saviour and salvation is yours.

J. H.



SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (5) JUSTIFICATION

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

Here we have a very big word, and, to many young readers, it will appear to be a difficult word to understand. We must think in the first place of "justification" being just the opposite to "condemnation." **We cannot escape the fact that we are all sinners.** This is true of each of us, young and old. No matter how respectable we may outwardly be, we are sinners and have broken God's law. Therefore the condemnation of God hangs over our heads. We are like a condemned man lying in his cell awaiting the day of execution.

But, thanks be to God, our case is not hopeless, and this is where the matter of justification comes in. Justification means "to make just." The wonderful thing about God's Gospel is that, when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are not only saved from our sins, but we are accounted before God as if we had never sinned. A condemned man might have mercy shown to him by a human judge—he might be reprieved. But his crime still hangs over his head—he cannot get away from that.

God, however, in His great grace, took the sins of the believer and laid them upon Jesus. Upon the cross, full atonement was made for those sins, and Jesus bore the penalty those sins deserved. **No other but Jesus could do this because He alone was perfect. He had no sins of His own—He was holy.**

The Lord Jesus Christ bore the consequences of all the sins of all who trust Him, when He went into death. The wrath of God was upon Him because of those sins. But the Saviour is risen to-day and the sins have gone. He "was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4. 25). His resurrection plainly shows that He perfectly satisfied the justice of God in the payment of the penalty. The work of the Cross is the ground of justification. The death of Christ has opened up the way for God to save the guilty sinner.

I would impress upon you that nothing YOU can do will make you righteous or justify you before God. The work which the Lord Jesus did is the only way of justification. No human effort will avail to justify a sinner. God justifies on the ground of faith through the blood of Christ.

Then I appeal to you, boys and girls, to put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ now, at this moment, and He will justify and save you at once.

Your affectionate friend, C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

The questions have been well answered this time. When you are asked to write out a verse where certain words occur, it means write out the *whole* verse. Several of you only give the references. The late papers have all been marked and entered. A paper has come from "Grahams-law" without a name.

I am glad you are continuing with the Scripture searching in spite of having to wait a whole year to know the prize results. You have only two more papers to do so take special care over the answers, especially number eight of this set.

Your loving Friend,
E.M.A.

QUESTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER.

Subject : JUSTIFICATION

1. Whom will not God justify? (Exodus 23).
2. Who are justified from all things? (Acts 13).
3. Write out the verse ending with "justification." (Romans 4).
4. How are we justified? (Romans 5).
5. "Much more through Him." Write out the verse where these words occur. (Romans 5).
6. Write out the verse which speaks of being justified. (Titus 3).
7. In Whose name are we justified? (1 Corinthians 6).
8. Who is it that justifieth? (Romans 8).

JULY-AUGUST SEARCHERS

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class—H. B. Bennett, A. W. Berrill, A. Bone, B. Cherric, B. Graham, C. Hodgins, D. Holmes, F. Inman, G. Norrie, H. Norrie, S. Oliver, B. Page, E. Pill, E. Pugh, A. Reade, J. Ridley, J. Robertson, D. Rogerson, K. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, J. D. Rugg, J. A. Smith, S. Smith, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. R. Willis, E. Winship.

2nd Class—E. Cottee, L. McDermott, W. O'Brien.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1st Class—J. Akenhead, M. Ambrose, H. Baugh, M. Baugh, G. Baxter, J. Bayliss, J. D. Bennett, D. Bertram, A. Boag, M. Browell, N. Bunce, P. Bunce, N. Bvass, M. Christie, P. Christie, R. Crabb, K. Fairbairn, I. Faldon, M. Farmer, I. Gilchrist, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, J. Gurkin, R. Gurkin, B. Haggard, K. Haining, N. Hamilton, M. Handcock, A. Harbottle, C. T. Harvey, A. Hay, M. Henderson, O. Higgins, B. Hodgins, M. Holmes, D. Hornal, B. Jackson, N. Lovett, M. McConnachie, V. McDonald, M. McIntosh, V. McIntosh, D. Manson, G. Mattingley, F. M. Messenger, A. Norrie, M. Oliver, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, A. Pooles, A. Pratt, A. Rice, B. Rogerson, K. Rugg, D. Sealey, A. Shields, A. Simpson, R. Simpson, A. Stephenson, M. Tait, M. Thom, E. Thompson, O. Turnbull, R. Usher, M. Waugh, E. Wilkinson, R. Wilson, J. Young.

2nd Class—H. Beard, D. Dodd, M. Easton, B. Fitchett, C. Leach, E. O'Brien.

Age 10 years and under

1st Class—M. Abbey, S. J. Adams, M. Anderson, E. Auld, L. Bailey, A. Barker, B. Baugh, F. Baugh, M. Bendall, R. Brown, M. Campbell, M. Coles, G. Coutts, V. Disbury, M. Dodds, D. Doncathy, S. Drury, W. Dunn, R. Evans, M. Fairbairn, V. Fairbairn, D. Gibson, B. Grieff, D. Grieff, R. Griffiths, P. Haggard, S. Handcock, R. Harbottle, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, J. Hayes, L. Henderson, A. Hodgson, R. Hutchinson, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, R. Little, E. May, R. McConnachie, P. Moore, J. Nelson, J. O'Brien, L. Ovington, R. Patterson, J. Short, R. Simm, M. Simpson, B. Spencer, G. Tait, S. Thomas, A. Thompson, M. Thompson, A. Thorpe, L. Willis.

2nd Class—M. Easton.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help.
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2oz., and post to reach by end of September. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year.

Prizes cease at the age of 16, but Searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings.

Short interesting articles containing the Gospel will be welcomed by the Editor:—

J. H. RUGG, 22 SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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Our Children



"UP THE STEPS WE GO"

[Photo J. H. Stone]

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at New York, N.Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Published Bi-Monthly, 1½d. net or 1/3 per annum, post free.

SPEEDING ON

HOW surprised would the people of Bible times be if they could see such things as the motor car and the aeroplane! Their swiftest method of movement was on horseback, and that seems to us moderns very slow indeed. A train has travelled for some miles at the rate of over a hundred miles an hour; the record for the racing car is nearer 300 than 200 miles an hour.; while the fastest rate of a seaplane is over 400 miles an hour. One may well ask whether these tremendous speeds are really worth the money spent, and sometimes, alas, the lives lost. But we live in the day of the machine, and most young people are interested in all sorts of fast movement on wheels.

And then there is the communication of words and sounds by means of the telegraph with and without wire. But there have always been light and thought, and these are the swiftest things of all.

Your life may not seem to you to travel very fast, but each day is bringing you nearer and nearer the time when you will pass into the unseen world. And as people get older, life seems to travel faster and faster.

A botanist once had a garden which he called his "time-garden." The flowers that opened, say, at nine o'clock were together; and so were those that opened at ten; and so on. He could in this way tell the time—to the hour—by seeing which flowers were closed and which were open.

Your life is like a time-garden. Some things are now closed to you. And some are closed in the sense that you no longer have any interest in them—the rattle, the doll and the fairy-tale, for instance. Instead, you go in for postage stamps and play football or hockey. By and bye these things will give place to others which will open out to you their attractions.

We are all getting older; and so God says, "**Remember NOW thy Creator in the days of thy youth.**"

A young lady who was asked to come to Christ, said, "I am thinking about it." Many years passed; she had become a very old lady, with bent back, grey hair and tottering step, and with one foot in the grave; and she still said, "I am thinking about it."

Thinking about it will **never** save you; you must **do** it.

"Go now in life's fair morning,
Go in the bloom of youth,
And buy for thine adorning
The precious pearl of truth."

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."
(Acts, 16. 31).

A LITTLE PHARISEE'S PRAYER

SOME people only love to pray because it quiets their consciences. It is not because they love God, or really feel the need of anything from Him. Such people think they shall get to Heaven just because "they are so good," and have not committed great sins like many other people.

But these self-righteous ones are just what the Bible calls *Pharisees*. Jesus tells us about one of these men who thought himself so good that he did not ask God for anything when he professed to pray.

The Lord Jesus says: "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." (Luke 18, 10-12).

You see, he did not *ask* God for anything. He only *told* Him how good he was and how much better he was, especially than that miserable tax-gatherer over in the corner smiting upon his breast and crying, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

But children are often great Pharisees. I knew of one of whom I will tell you. One night her mother heard her offering a prayer very much like the Pharisee's in the temple. These were her words: "O Lord, bless Tommy; he's a naughty boy. All boys are naughty; they lie, they deceive, they steal, but we girls don't! Amen."—And into bed she jumped.

Wasn't she a wicked young Pharisee? Her prayer, like the Pharisee's, was full of proud boasting. Had she from the heart offered the prayer of the publican, "God be merciful to *me* a sinner," she would have become a Christian that very night, so that if she had died that night she would have awakened in Heaven.

Have you ever *really* prayed? If not then you are not a Christian. Oh! What would become of you if you should die to-day? Never to have knelt down and really thanked Jesus for dying on the Cross for you, and never trusted Him to forgive you all your sins and bless you. Oh! I hope *to-night* you will pray as the publican, "God be merciful to *me* a sinner."

E. P. H.



PATTY'S INVITATION; OR, COME TO JESUS

IN a pretty little village in Aberdeenshire, there lived two school-boys close companions and playmates. They travelled the same road to school every morning, and returned together at night.

Patty, the younger of the two, was the child of Christian parents who longed and prayed for his conversion to God, for you must know, boys and girls, that none of you can ever go to heaven on the credit of your parents' faith. "**Ye must be born again,**" is a word as true concerning you as the child of the idolater. You need to be converted before you can be a Christian on earth, or go to heaven after.

Patty went to a series of Children's Meetings held in the village where he lived by a stranger, who came there on a visit, and on the second and third night, he, along with several other boys, received the Lord Jesus as his own Saviour. He repented of his sins, believed on Him and received "life"—just as we read—"He that believeth on the Son **hath** everlasting life." (John 3, 36). There was much joy in Patty's home that night when he returned from the meeting and told of his salvation.

Next morning he met his companion Willie, as usual, and told him the good news. Was Willie pleased? No, indeed, he laughed at him, and said he was going mad. But Patty assured him he was perfectly sane, and very happy.

"Just you come to Jesus yourself, Willie, and you'll see it's all true what I'm saying," said the dear boy. This earnest invitation left Willie without a word to say. That night he sat in the meeting by Patty's side, and before the week ended he was saved also. The two boys were now companions in Christ and workers for Him.

Have you trusted Christ? and if so are you seeking like Patty to win others for Him?



BRINGING HOME THE YULE LOG

IN great glee, Harry and Willie Morgan, sons of the gamekeeper who dwelt in the neat three-cornered lodge on the edge of the common, sallied out into the wood unknown to their parents, to bring home "The Yule Log."

They had invited a number of their schoolmates to come up in the evening, and they expected to have a surprise awaiting their parents when they would carry in the stock of a great tree, which they had prepared some time before, and hid away among the brushwood for "The Yule Log."

But, as with many a fair expedition, the two boys find themselves overtaken by a snow-storm when only outward bound for their prize. What was to be done? To return home would be the wiser and safer plan; but then "The Yule Log" would be lost for the evening's fun. So they hurried through the snow, which got deeper as they further proceeded along the wood. They seemed to have forgotten that the December day is short, and that darkness comes quickly down.

At length they reached the clump of brushwood under which the log was securely hid, and after a while of hard work on turning up the snow-covered branches, they secured the object of their visit. A piece of rope was tied around the heavy tree, and a start made on the return journey. But this was found to be more difficult by far than they had thought of. The soft snow, now eighteen inches deep, was difficult to walk through, and then the heavy "log" had to be pulled behind them. Stealthily the darkness was coming down; the boys were quite tired-out and fully half of the homeward journey had still to be travelled. Half-an-hour more, and they both sat down exhausted on the "log," and so heavily had the snow been falling that they could not move it when they made their next start.

There was nothing for it but to leave the "log," with all the bright hopes they had built upon it, in the deep snow, and find their way home as best they could without it. But this was no easy job. The path was lost in the deep snow, and the boys knew not whether they were going home, or further away. **They were lost, and they could not find their way home.** Meanwhile, their parents became alarmed, and about a dozen men with lanterns set out to seek them. After a long search, Harry and Willie were found half-frozen, locked in each other's arms under the shelter of a great tree. Strong and willing hands lifted the two boys, and soon they were safe at home. But the adventure of that night has not been forgotten. It was often referred to by the boys' parents to set before them their state as lost and perishing sinners, and the work of Christ in coming to seek and save.

* * *

Twenty years have passed since that stormy yule night. In a village school-room a large company of boys and girls have gathered for the annual tea and distribution of prizes. Two young men, earnest Christian workers, and soul winners, are there to address the children after tea is over. One of them tells to eager listeners the story of "The Yule Log," and laying his hand on the shoulder of his brother says "This is Willie and I am Harry." We have never forgotten that night when we were lost in the snow, and sought and found, much less another night some years after when both of us were found by the Lord Jesus and saved by His grace for eternity.

Reader, have you been sought, found and SAVED by the Saviour?

HOW A BAD BOY WAS SAVED

"TOO much noise in that class," I said. "Is it you, John?"

"It's no' me, sir. It's Ferguson."

"Ferguson, stop that noise at once."

But Ferguson was irrepressible. For a moment he drew his round face a little bit longer, till the superintendent's back was about, and then all his fun and wilfulness broke out again.

"But who was Ferguson?" you say.

Ferguson was a little boy of twelve years, with a curly black head and laughing, fun-provoking eyes, whose wayward ways had almost worn out mine. But every time I threatened to expel him, his teacher—a lady—pleaded that he might have another chance, and went away home to pray for him more fervently than ever. So Ferguson stayed on.

The years passed by. Ferguson grew up and left the class, followed by the prayers of all interested in him. But one day, near St. Giles' Cathedral, I saw coming in the opposite direction a strapping young soldier of the Royal Scots. As he neared me he looked up, suddenly stopped and saluted. I returned his salutation, a little surprised, not knowing in the least who it could be.

"Not know me, sir?" he said. "I'm Ferguson."

"Not Sam Ferguson?" I replied.

"Yes, indeed," said he: "I'm Sam."

"So you are a soldier now?"

"Yes, and better than that, I'm glad to say, I'm a soldier of the King of kings."

Then the young fellow told me all about the Sunday School lessons and how they stuck to him, till at last he was brought to the Lord Jesus at a soldiers' meeting.

Have *you* enlisted under the banner of the Lord Jesus?—L.L.



JESUS

WITH breaking heart, a fond mother is pacing the room, seeking to soothe the patient little sufferer she holds in her arms, a lovely boy of five summers.

As she gazes into the dear face, she longs to hear from those sweet lips the name of Him who is soon to fold this tender lamb to his own loving bosom.

"Who loves my darling better than mother?" she softly asked.

The tired lips slowly open, and clearly utter one word—**"JESUS,"** the one precious Name which is above *every* name.

Do you know, dear reader, the power of that saving Name? You are *not* too young to be saved.

"A little child of seven,

Or even three or four,

May learn the way to heaven

Through Christ the Open Door."

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (6)

REDEMPTION

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

There was a time not so very long ago, when, in certain parts of the world, men and women and boys and girls were stolen from their homes and sold as slaves. These people had to work very hard indeed and often had cruel masters. A noble man in England, William Wilberforce, was greatly troubled about this traffic, and he so interested people in the matter that the English parliament decided to free the slaves. A very large sum of money was paid in order that these people might go free. On a certain day when the money was paid the slaves were given their freedom. This would certainly be a great day for them—a day ever to be remembered.

This story shows the meaning of REDEMPTION. We are all by nature sinners, and under the bondage of Satan. If you are now unsaved, you are a poor slave of Satan, and you have no power to free yourself. But the good news we have to tell is this, that what you could not do, Jesus *has* done. **The Lord Jesus Christ has paid a price, even his own precious blood, to deliver the slaves of Satan.**

Redemption is a most important subject. Without it, we would all have been without hope for ever. Little wonder that the great evangelical prophet Isaiah makes much of redemption. Again and again he refers to it as a subject for praise. (See Chapter 44, 22 and 23; also 51. 11).

There are three verses in Isaiah which I would like you to read. The first is the second verse of chapter 50, and this speaks of the *Power of God*.

It is very plain in the Word of God that no man can redeem himself, neither can a man redeem his brother or his friend. This power belongs to God alone. He has power to deliver because of the glorious work of Christ upon the cross. **Deliverance has been purchased by the blood of Christ, and freedom is offered to the captives of Satan through the gospel.**

Turn to Isaiah 52. 3 and read of the *Grace of God*.

We have all gone our own way. We have sold ourselves for nothing. Just a little pleasure, perhaps, just a little ambition; it may be self-interest and self-seeking. But God, in His wonderful grace says that He will redeem without money. We could not pay if we would, but such is the grace of God that He gives freely.

Now look at chapter 63 and verse 9, and you will find expressed the *Love and Pity of God*.

Oh, how great is the love of God! So great, that He sent His Son to be the Redeemer. He pitied us in our lost condition under the power of Satan, and Jesus came to deliver us, to destroy the power of Satan, and to save us from our sins.

Redemption is God's work—wrought by His power, His grace and His love—made ours by the blood of Christ. On the ground of redemption we are justified and we receive the forgiveness of our sins.

God wants to set you free from your sins *now*. There is freedom for *you*—a slave of sin and Satan. May you have grace to accept the blessing He is so ready to give.

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. Ross.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

It is not often that there are *no* names to enter for second class, but as you will see, the younger searchers are all first class. That is splendid!

One paper has come from South Lotts Road, Dublin, without a name.

We are now at the end of the year, so take special care not to make errors in your last paper.

Your loving Friend,
E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER.

Subject : Redemption

1. What is precious? (Psalm 49).
2. What is there with the Lord? (Psalm 130).
3. What draweth nigh? (Luke 21).
4. Write out the verse which mentions redemption. (Romans 3).
5. "In whom . . . of sins," Write out the verse where these words occur. (Colossians 1).
6. Write out the verse which ends with "redemption." (Ephesians 4).
7. With what were we redeemed? (I Peter 1).
8. Why was the Lord worthy to take the book and to open the seals? (Revelation 5).

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER SEARCHERS

Age 14 years and over

1st Class—E. Bell, H. B. Bennett, A. Berrill, A. Bone, E. Cottee, H. Foreman, C. Hodgins, F. Inman, S. Oliver, B. Page, E. Pill, A. Reade, J. Reid, J. W. Renton, E. Robertson, J. Robertson, D. Rogerson, K. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, J. D. Rugg, J. A. Smith, S. Smith, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. R. Willis, E. Winship.

2nd Class—R. Brown.

Age 11 up to 13 years

First Class—M. Ambrose, H. Baugh, M. Baugh, G. Baxter, J. Bayliss, H. Beard, L. Bell, J. D. Bennett, D. Bertram, N. Bunce, P. Bunce, N. Byass, B. Clugston, R. Crabb, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, B. Fitchett, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, B. Haggard, M. Handcock, C. Harvey, A. Hay, G. Heal, B. Hodgins, N. Lovett, M. McConnachie, R. McCrindle, D. Manson, G. Mattingley, F. M. Messenger, A. Norrie, L. Ovington, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, A. Pratt, B. Quarry, A. Rice, B. Rogerson, K. Rugg, D. Sealey, A. Shields, A. Simpson, R. Simpson, A. Stephenson, M. Thom, O. Turnbull, R. Usher, E. Wilkinson, J. Young.

2nd Class—M. Brechin, E. Butterwick, L. Doneathy, A. Harbottle.

Age 10 years and under

1st Class—M. Abbey, S. J. Adams, M. Anderson, M. Badham, L. Bailey, A. Barker, B. Baugh, F. Baugh, M. Bendall, C. Blackburn, M. Campbell, J. Clugston, M. Coles, G. Coutts, M. Dodds, R. Evans, M. Fairbairn, V. Fairbairn, S. Forster, B. Greiff, D. Greiff, R. Griffiths, P. Haggard, S. Handcock, R. Harbottle, O. Hart, E. Hayes, J. Hayes, A. Hodson, R. Hutchinson, G. Johnson, F. May, R. McConnachie, P. Moore, J. Nelson, L. Nelthorpe, R. Patterson, R. Pratt, F. Pringle, J. Short, R. Simm, Mary Simpson, Myrtle Simpson, B. Spencer, G. Tober, G. A. Thompson, M. Todd, L. Willis.

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2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help.
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2oz., and post to reach by end of November. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

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J. H. RUGG, 22 SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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Published Bi-Monthly.



THE VILLAGE SHOPKEEPER

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at New York, N.Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Published Bi-Monthly, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. net or 1/3 per annum, post free.

HOW I AM LIKE A CANDLE

I WAS MADE. We all belong to God because He has made us. We owe everything to our great Creator and Preserver. Each morning, on awakening, do you thank God for keeping you safe through the night and for giving you another day to live ?

I WAS MADE FOR A PURPOSE. A pencil is to write with ; a knife is to cut with ; a house is to live in ; a train is to ride in ; and a candle is made for a purpose. And so with you, **God has made you for Himself ; He has the first claim upon you, and He wants you to live so as to please Him. The service of God will not spoil your life but enrich it. God only wants to separate us from things that pull us the wrong way.**

I AM USELESS TILL LIGHTED. The candle cannot serve the purpose for which it was made until it is lighted. Now we read of the Lord Jesus, " In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men." When you receive Christ as your Saviour you receive not only the forgiveness of your sins but a new life also, and this new life does for you what the light does for the candle, it enables you to fulfil the purpose which God had in making you. For without this new life you cannot please or serve God. And this new life will cause you to understand what before was dark to you ; you will know God and like to read His Word and to pray ; and you will love His people for His sake.

I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WHERE I DWELL. In air that is very heavy or poisonous the candle flame will not burn brightly and may even go out. **The young christian must take care to avoid friendships and pleasures which take away his love of the Bible, and make it harder for him to believe God and less pleasant to serve Him. The Holy Spirit who lives in us is sensitive and easily grieved. Your body is His temple, and you must be careful where you take the temple of God.**

I AM TO BE READY, TO BE USEFUL ANYWHERE. A candle is for usefulness rather than for ornament. " Lord, make me useful," should be your constant prayer. You have been saved to serve the Lord and to help others. Go to Him about it, and ask Him to show you how you can be useful. " Ready " is the splendid motto of the Boy Scouts. And that suggests another motto, which Earl Cairns took as a boy, and with which we will close our " candle talk ; " "**GOD CLAIMS ME.**"

E. ADAMS.

THE REFUGE

WHILST engaged in the medical department of a large Atlantic liner, a pigeon was brought to the surgery for treatment. The ship was travelling at full speed off the north coast of Ireland

when the pigeon, which was being pursued by a number of seagulls, took refuge by flying through one of the portholes. It was picked up by a sailor, who, on examination, found that it was absolutely exhausted and bleeding from its feet, so he brought it along to have its wounds dressed.

I shall never forget the poor bird, it was so patient ; it seemed to appreciate the kindly help bestowed, and although the anti-septic that was applied to control the bleeding must have caused it much temporary pain, it remained quiet and did not flinch. After it had been sufficiently attended to it was given plenty of food and water, then being allowed a good rest, recovered so quickly that when the ship arrived in port the following day it was well enough to be released to find its way home. Had not the liner been passing at just the right moment the pigeon would have been killed by the gulls.

I mention this incident because it impressed me. I was led to think of the many people who, like the pigeon, are pursued by an enemy, and unless they flee for safety and take refuge, will eventually be destroyed. The enemy is Satan ; the people are the many unsaved ones, both young and old, whom Satan seeks to destroy ; and the refuge is the blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, there is salvation from Satan, sin and eternal sorrow, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, and you can immediately take refuge in Him. He is the Saviour of all who trust Him ; and best of all, He invites you to do so, saying, "Come unto Me," (Matthew 11. 28) and "Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6. 37).

Decide now ; make your choice ; take refuge in Christ and find salvation. Say in the language of the hymn :—

" Jesus, my heart's dear Refuge,
Jesus has died for me ;
Firm in the Rock of Ages,
Ever my trust shall be."

J.P.



A LIE AND ITS RESULT

BILLIE was walking home from Corley to Ryde, and that's five miles—good long miles too. It was dreadfully cold, and Billie had never walked so far before. Hours and hours seemed to have passed before he reached the forest gate that showed he was only one mile from home. Anyhow, what harm to sit on that gate and swing one's legs a bit ? "But father said, ' ' 'Rubbish ! he didn't mean ' " and so began the battle, which ended by two short legs taking their place on either side of the forest gate and drumming merrily on the third bar.

Now besides not holding his father's word as sacred as he ought to have done, Billie had yet another growing fault ; for faults like most other things, if they are not getting less, are growing larger, bolder and more head-strong ; and these " little foxes that spoil the vines " never come singly but in packs. Well Billie had a growing uncertainty about the truth. So when a man, who looked as if he had lived in the forest until his hair and clothes had almost taken the form of leaves and bark, came winding along the forest path and asked the way to Ryde, Billie pointed along the road to Corley, because he was frightened at the idea of going in the dark along the same road as this rough-looking man. So they set off in opposite directions : Billie for home, and the man for—**where** ?

The next morning Ryde was startled to hear how a monster oak, sound without but rotten and hollow within, had crashed into the Corley road, bearing with it to the ground an unknown traveller, caught in the tangled branches of its great sweeping arms. A carter who passed that way in the early morning had brought into Ryde a Bible, well used and thumbed that seemed to have fallen from the stranger's hand.

This was many years ago, and Billie, through grace, will meet the man in heaven, but he cannot bear to think of the meeting because of the lie he told that winter evening. Indeed, the lie was the immediate result of disobedience, for these two sins go together. Now Billie **knew** it was wrong to tell a lie, and was always very angry if he suspected another boy of not speaking the truth. This was like saying : " I know the good and approve of it, but—I follow the bad."

Do you think this was the first time Billie had departed from the truth ? Well, let us hope it was, but after a thing has been done once, it is always easier to do it the second time—just like repeating a lesson we learned at school yesterday. After a few times it becomes a habit, as when we say our " Tables " we do not have even to stop to think about them. **What an awful thing it would be to make a habit of not telling the truth—tell a lie without thinking about it.**

Remember, every time you disobey—God's word says : "**Children, obey your parents in the Lord ; for this is right.** (*Ephesians* 6. 1.)—or say something that is not absolutely true, you add to habits that will cling to you like the flower-head of a burdock even when you think you have shaken it off. Lying is one of the things God hates (*Proverbs* 6. 17), and unless repented of and covered by the death of Christ, will bar the way to heaven and lead to the lake of fire (*Revelation* 21. 8).

The Lord Jesus is the only one who can keep those who have trusted Him walking in ways that please Him. So, if you are among that number, seek Him daily for supplies of grace and power. But if you have not yet come to Him in repentance and faith, **do so now**, because there is no time to lose.

M.H.T. (*adapted*).

“ In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”—Proverbs 3, 6.

When you think, when you speak, when you read, when you write ;
When you walk, when you talk, when you seek for delight ;
To be kept from all wrong when at home or abroad,

Live always as under the eye of the Lord.

Whatever you think, never think what you feel
You would blush in the presence of God to reveal ;
Whatever you say in a whisper or clear,

Say nothing you would not like Jesus to hear.

Whatever you write, though with haste or with heed,
Write nothing you would not like Jesus to read.

Whatever you sing in the midst of your glees,
Sing nothing that His listening ear could displease.

Wherever you go, never go where you fear,
Lest God should ask you **“ How camest thou here ? ”**

Turn away from each pleasure you'd shrink from pursuing
If He should look down and say **“ What art thou doing ? ”**

So, to be kept from all wrong both at home and abroad,
Live always as under the eye of the Lord.



FRIEND OR ENEMY ?

A GENTLEMAN one day rode to a distant town on horseback, and while returning home at night was overtaken by a terrible storm. It poured in torrents and became very dark. Crossing the moors he lost his way, and there was no one near to ask where he was or obtain shelter. Not a single star could be seen nor a light of any kind.

Suddenly he was startled by a very vivid flash of lightning, which illuminated all around him, and to his great horror revealed the fact that he was riding on the very brink of a precipice, so near that it was a wonder the horse and rider escaped from an untimely end.

Was he sorry or angry with the lightning for revealing his perilous position? How foolish this would have been; rather would he think of it as a friend. And yet when people are told that if unsaved they are in fearful danger, and might any moment be hurried into a lost and hopeless eternity, they are sometimes angry and try to get rid of the words of warning. Why, I have seen people tear up tracts because they did not like them, when all the while it was simply a little silent message from God.

Don't you be so foolish, and when you read these pages, just read the parts that many boys and girls skip, for in the reading and believing of those little bits may be eternal blessing for you.

J. W. H. NICHOLS.

A LETTER FOR YOU

Dear Boys and Girls,

Years ago it was my pleasure to be present at a prize-distribution when the scholars gathered in goodly numbers to receive their books. Prior to this, they had engaged in recitations and singing, during which a chorus was sung. The words run like this :—

“ We are building day by day, as the moments fly away,
A temple that the world may not see ;
Every victory won by grace, will be sure to find a place,
In that building for eternity.”

I wonder if you have ever thought that *each one of us* is building day by day—either for the Lord Jesus or Satan ! Every act we do, every word we speak, every thought we think, we are building, BUILDING, BUILDING. How are we building ? Every right thought, word and act is like a good brick put into place. But are we building on the right foundation ? And if not, what use is our building ? Children delight in making castles on the sands, but they don't last because they are made of sand and built on sand. Even if made of solid material it would be no use to build on sand, because the storms would soon shake the foundation ; and so the building would fall.

It is most important then, to have the **right** foundation. Read what the Lord Jesus says in regard to this in Matthew 7. 24-29, “ Whosoever *heareth* these sayings of mine, and *doeth* them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock : and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew it fell not : for it was founded upon a rock.”

Have *you* heard His sayings ? Have you obeyed them ? Are the results seen in your daily life ? If not, come to Him, for He says : “ Come unto Me.” (Matthew 11. 28-30), then learn of Him and follow Him ; so will you have the *right* foundation. He will help you day by day through 1943 and all your days to build well with good bricks, so that as the storms of life come your house will stand firm whatever winds may blow— not because you are good, but because He is, and because He has forgiven your sins. Then, when the day of review comes, you will hear Him say, “ Well done, thou good and faithful servant enter thou unto the joy of thy Lord.”

A very happy New Year to you is the prayerful wish of,

Your affectionate EDITOR.



SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (6) ABRAHAM

Dear young Friends,

I have no doubt that all boys and girls like to read about great men and noble women. The lives of these people are often thrilling and inspiring. God has given us many stories of people who were truly great. The Bible is full of tales of people, rich and poor, high and low, young and old, who fought battles, encountered wild beasts, endured persecutions and imprisonment, and did many wonderful exploits. It is very interesting to read these stories and to go back over the ages in thought, and picture to ourselves what these people would be like. Their lives, of course, would be quite different to ours. Modern life cannot be compared to life thousands of years ago.

We are going to consider some of these great people this year, and, for a start, I would like to say a little about Abraham or Abram as he was first called.

We do not know anything about his boyhood except that he was probably born at Ur, in the country which we now call Iraq. The family moved to

Haran many miles further up the river Euphrates. It was here that Abram's father died. At Haran, when Abram was 75 years of age, a command came from God : " Get thee out of thy country, unto a land that I will shew thee." Abram had no idea where God would lead him, but, so great was his faith, he went out at the call of God together with his family.

It was no easy matter travelling in those days. Abram could not just pack a bag or two and step into a motor car and drive off. No, such a luxury was not possible then. Besides the family, there were the cattle and sheep, of which there must have been a great many because Abram was a very rich man, also the tents and all the household utensils. Day after day the travellers moved along till at last they entered the land of Canaan. They settled for a time at a place called Bethel, where Abram built an altar and called upon God.

Later Abram went into Egypt but returned into Canaan, and eventually died in Hebron at the age of 175 years. It was when Abram was 99 that God changed his name to Abraham.

There are two things which mark Abraham in a special way—**faith and separation.**

Faith is most important because we read : "**without faith it is impossible to please God.**" For salvation, we must have faith ; which is just believing what God says.

Then, having believed, a call comes to each one to come out—to be separate from the world. We cannot, of course, leave our homes and friends and commence a journey on the road. **But God wants us to choose our friends very carefully and to see that our ways are a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ. The world has disowned our Saviour. Can we, therefore, find friendship in the world ? No, but, like Abraham, by prayer, by the word of God, by communion, we can walk through the world in faith.** This cannot be done in our own power, but God, who calls us, gives us the power. In spite of our shortcomings, God abideth faithful and He is able to lead us on to victory as He did Abraham.

Your affectionate friend,
C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

It is nice to see some new searchers at the end of the year. I hope they will continue, and find the Scripture Searching to be a help and a blessing. Always remember to read right through to the end of the chapter before giving your answer as there may be a similar answer to the correct one. So many of you failed in this way this time.

N. Reed and others must give chapter and verse.

Bibles are being given to the first prize winners as before, except where one has been gained previously. A book will be given in this case.

I hope those who have dropped out will take fresh courage and start again.

Your loving friend,
E.M.A.

QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1943.

1. " I am thy Shield." Who spoke these words to Abram ? (Genesis 15).
2. " And he believed in the Lord." Write out the next eight words only. (Genesis 15).
3. When Abram was ninety-nine years old, what did the Lord tell him to do ? (Genesis 17).
4. When God destroyed the cities, whom did He remember ? (Genesis 19).
5. Which son had Abraham to offer for a burnt offering ? (Genesis 22).
6. What did Abraham say to Isaac about a burnt offering ? (Genesis 22).
7. Write out the verse which mentions " Jehovah-Jireh." (Genesis 22).
8. Write out the verse ending with " all things." (Genesis 24).

PRIZE LIST—

Age 14 years and over

1. Kathleen Rogerson, Hillcrest, Thropton, Morpeth, Northumberland.
2. John R. Willis, Greenwell Villas, Thropton, Morpeth, Northumberland.
3. Charles Hodgins, Park Villa, Castleknock, C. Dublin.
4. D. Austen Rugg, 22 Shaftesbury St. Stockton-on-Tees.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1. Alan Rice, 22 Cotteswold Road, Gloucester.
2. Edwards Wilkinson, 24 Morton Crescent, Fence Houses, Co. Durham.
3. Rozanne Usher, 10 Crawley View, Powburn, Alnwick, Northumberland.
4. G. Baxter, 20 Cotteswold Road, Gloucester.

Age 10 years and under.

1. Ronald Patterson, 6 Chapel Row, Philadelphia, Co. Durham.
2. Olwyn Hart, 73 Hind Street, Stockton-on-Tees.
3. Mary Bendall, 16 Roker Terrace, Stockton-on-Tees.
4. Margaret Dodds, 8 Crown Street, Aberdeen.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER SEARCHERS**Age 14 years and over**

1st Class—E. Bell, H. Bennett, A. Berrill, A. Bone, E. Cottee, M. Easton, H. Foreman, C. Hodgins, F. Inman, F. M. Messenger, L. Morton, G. Norrie, P. Oates, Barbara Page, Betty Page, E. Pill, A. Reade, J. Renton, E. Robertson, J. Robertson, K. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, S. Smith, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. Willis, E. Winship.

2nd Class—M. Neaumont, P. Christie, R. Espey, S. Greenstone.

Age 11 up to 13 years

1st Class—M. Ambrose, M. Anderson, F. Baugh, H. Baugh, M. Baugh, J. Bayliss, G. Baxter, H. Beard, I. Bell, D. J. Bennett, M. Blair, O. Buchan, N. Bunce, M. Cameron, A. Cairnes, M. Christie, B. Clugston, R. Crabb, J. Dawson, L. Doncathy, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, M. Farmer, N. Fraser, I. Gilchrist, J. Greshon, B. Haggard, M. Handcock, A. Harbottle, J. Harbottle, A. Hay, G. Heal, M. Henderson, B. Hodgins, J. Hughes, B. Jackson, M. McConnachie, R. McCrindle, D. Manson, M. Marsh, A. Norrie, L. Ovington, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, J. Pringle, R. Purvis, B. Quarry, N. Reed, A. Rice, M. Robertson, Muriel Robertson, B. Rogerson, H. Rogerson, K. Rugg, D. Sealey, A. Shields, V. Simmonds, A. Stephenson, D. Stone, M. Tait, A. Thom, M. Thom, O. Turnbull, R. Usher, J. West, E. Wilkinson, J. Williams, L. Willis, J. Young.

2nd Class—M. Brechin, N. Byass, G. Forster, G. Mattingley, A. Simpson, M. Wells.

Age 10 years and under

1st Class—M. Abbey, S. J. Adams, M. Badham, A. Barker, B. Baugh, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, R. Brown, M. Campbell, D. Carrick, D. Cockburn, M. Coles, G. Coutts, M. Dodds, D. Doncathy, S. Drury, B. Evans, R. Evans, M. Fairbairn, V. Fairbairn, S. Forster, B. Greiff, D. Greiff, R. Griffiths, P. Haggard, S. Handcock, R. Harbottle, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, J. Hayes, L. Henderson, A. Hodgson, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, T. Johnstone, A. Kennedy, E. May, R. McConnachie, P. Moore, J. Nelson, L. Nelthorpe, R. Patterson, I. Peevor, F. Pringle, D. Rigg, D. Robertson, B. Simmonds, M. Simpson, G. Tait, A. Thomas, S. Thomas, A. Thompson, A. Thorpe, H. Wharrier, J. Wharrier.

2nd Class—J. Clugston, R. Forster, J. Leck, R. Robertson, Myrtle Simpson.

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Our Children



THE LYCH GATE, HARROW.

(Photo, J. H. Stevens)

Published Bi-Monthly, 1½d. net or 1/3 per annum, post free.

A WHITE HEART

A MISSIONARY lady doctor was sitting one morning in her hospital in India seeing the hundreds of women who came to her in the hope of being made better. Among them a woman came who did not seem to have much the matter with her. The missionary asked her questions and examined her, but could not find out that she was ill at all. At last the doctor asked her, "Well, what is the matter with you? What do you want?"

"I'll tell you mem Sahib," said the woman, "I want some medicine to make my heart white like yours." She had watched the lady missionary and she wanted to be like her.

"I felt so ashamed said the missionary in telling the story; "**White like mine?** when I knew so well what my own heart was like." But though she knew so well her own faults and failings, yet her heart was washed white in the **blood** of Jesus, and she was able to tell that poor Indian woman who had seen the difference in her life, about the precious "medicine" which can make white the heart of everyone who comes to the Saviour, the Great Physician.

Is **your** heart made white by that precious "medicine?" Have you come to the Lord Jesus and asked Him to make it clean and pure in His sight? Unlike this poor Indian woman, you have heard about Him ever since you were quite tiny; but are you washed white? Would people know by your life that **you** have a white heart?

"God forgive those" said the missionary, "who know of the medicine but do not use it themselves or make it known to others."

"Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

"Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood to Him be glory."

X.X.X.



GOD SEES

SOME years ago a young man noticed that the biscuits which he kept in his room disappeared during his absence. This went on for a while until one day he wrote "God sees" on a piece of paper and put it inside his biscuit box. The biscuits then ceased to be taken. After some time he removed the paper and strange to say, the theft of his biscuits began again.

You may smile at this story though it is true, and think what a foolish person the thief was to be stopped by the presence of the piece of paper instead of taking heed to the unalterable truth of the words which it contained.

God sees whether there is something to remind you of the fact or not. Wherever you are and whatever you are doing you are under the eye of God.

“The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good” (*Proverbs* 15. 3.) Remember this when you are tempted to do that which is wrong, for “by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.”



SAFE

A TINY girl of four stood gazing for some moments at a picture of the “Good Shepherd” and then exclaimed “O mother? look? the shepherd has taken the little lamb in His arms and the poor mother-sheep wants it.” Her mother replied “The mother can trust the Good Shepherd with her lamb dear, she knows it is perfectly safe with Him,” and the child was satisfied.

A boy and girl were drowned somewhere on the Devonshire coast, and the bereaved father making known the sad news to a relative by telegram used these words: “A and B are safe in the arms of Jesus.” How beautiful? He knew those dear ones had given themselves to the Lord and, therefore, was confident that it was well with them.

Doubtless, you who have believing parents were given to the Lord from your birth. I mean they accepted you as a gift from God, to be held, as it were, in trust and how earnestly they prayed that should you live you might give yourselves to Him. **Dearly as they love you, your parents cannot save you, only the Lord Jesus Christ can do that—“He gave His life a ransom for many,” and you are one of them.**

I read of a little girl who desired to be one of those mentioned in a beautiful text. Do you also desire to be among those redeemed by the precious blood of Christ? Do not let that quick temper and other faults of yours and the fear of dishonouring Christ through them cause you to hesitate to confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus. He knows our frame and we have only to yield ourselves up to Him and He will work in us to will and to do of His good pleasure. **He came to save sinners.**

Perhaps one who reads this can see no beauty in the Lord Jesus? You do not think you need a Saviour and like to go on in your own way. Oh, I am sorry for you? Did you ever read that verse? “**There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death**” (*Proverbs* 14. 12). Should you be taken suddenly as many are in these days, your parents could not say of **you** that you were safe?

There is nothing more blessed than to walk through this troubled world knowing we are safe! As safe in the tempest as

in the calm ; safe though there is turmoil and confusion all around us, safe alike on sea or on land, because we are kept by the power of God—our hearts fixed, trusting in the Lord.

“ The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
He will not (He’s said it) give up to his foes ;
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
He’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”

A.S.



WHAT ROVER TAUGHT HIS MASTER

A LADY went up to a man at a railway station, who had a beautiful dog with him. She knew he was not spending his life for God, but was wasting it on himself and in the service of the devil. She began fondling the dog, saying, “ What a beautiful dog you have here ! ”

“ Yes,” said the man rather gruffly, “ but take care he doesn’t bite you ; he’s not fond of strangers.”

“ Oh, he won’t bite me. Dogs know who are fond of them. No doubt you are fond of him ? ”

“ That I am.”

“ Do you feed your dog ? ”

“ Yes, ma’am.”

“ House him ? ”

“ Yes, of course.”

“ Does your dog obey your word of command ? ”

“ Yes.”

“ And you would be disappointed if he did not love and obey you ? ”

“ That I should.” Then, looking proudly at his dog, he said, “ But Rover **does** love his master.” And he patted his dog’s head as it looked up trustfully in his face.

“ Would you be sorry if he followed a stranger ? ”

“ Yes,” the man replied, rather impatient at so many questions.

“ Ah,” said she in an earnest, reproachful tone, “ what a lesson that dog teaches you ! God has fed you, housed you, cared for you, loved you these many years ; but you do not love Him or obey Him. He so loved you as to give His own Son to die on the Cross for your sins, and yet you have never loved Him in return. You follow a stranger ; Satan is your chosen master. The dog knows his owner ; you don’t know yours.”

She looked sadly yet kindly at him as she spoke these words. His heart was touched. He fixed his eyes on his dog, and said in a choking voice, “ Ah, Rover, Rover, you have taught your master a lesson to-day. I **have** been an ungrateful sinner, but by God’s help I’ll be so no longer.”

That evening he was found for the first time in the prayer-meeting, crying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." And soon he was rejoicing in the knowledge of the forgiveness of his sins.

Have you ever said, "Thank you" to God for all the blessings He gives you to enjoy? Are you really thankful for His goodness to you? Then how will you show it? Why, of course, by doing what pleases Him.

"And what is that?" you ask. We will answer in the words of Christ Himself. When people asked Him what they were to do to carry out God's requirements, He replied, "This is the work of God (this is what God wants you to do), that ye believe on Him whom He has sent."

Have you in this way committed yourself to the Lord Jesus?

E. ADAMS.



"NO MORE WAR FOR ME"

MANY years ago the lovely islands of the Pacific were inhabited by cannibal tribes who were constantly fighting each other. One day one of these warlike Chiefs, who was chasing another man in order to put him to death, came across a little girl fast asleep, with her head resting on a strange pillow, for it was a small book. The cruel Chief struck the little girl a hard blow, and snatching up her pillow, hurried on his way.

What was that little book which the Maori child was using as a pillow? It was a copy of St. Luke's Gospel in her own language, which was her greatest treasure, for she had learned to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ at the Mission School. The cruel Chief, however, knew nothing of this, for he could not even read his own language, and had never heard of the Saviour Who had loved him, and had died to save him from his sins.

Looking upon the little book as a sort of charm, he kept it as a war relic, and took it back with him to his home, where it was carefully preserved. Years passed, and the Chief died. His son became Chief in his stead, but he was different from his father, and hated the constant bloodshed which took place on his island. One day a traveller came to visit him—a native of the Islands, like himself, but one who had lived with white men, and had learned many of their ways.

That evening the Chief sat talking with his visitor, and during the conversation he suddenly exclaimed: "Can there be no other way of settling our quarrels? I am sick at heart with all the bloodshed among us!"

"There is another way," replied the visitor. "If I had God's Book here, I could show you, but I have none."

"God's Book?" repeated the Chief wonderingly, as his mind flew back to the little shabby, tattered Gospel which was still carefully preserved among his people. Could it be possible that that was God's Book? Hurrying away, he fetched it, and handed it over to his friend, saying as he did so: "If this is God's Book, tell me the way of peace."

The other man took the little Book, and opening it, began to read from its pages, while the Chief listened spellbound. Very slowly the visitor read the story of the One who came to bring "peace and good will" to this earth, of His blessed life, and then of His death upon the Cross of Calvary for the sins of the whole world." When he had reached the last page of the little Book, he turned again to the sixth chapter, and the twenty-seventh verse. "Love your enemies, do good to them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." he read, and then looking up at the Chief, he said: "That is the other way of settling quarrels, about which I spoke, Chief, but it can only be when Christ the Saviour comes into the heart to dwell."

The young Chief sprang to his feet. "No more war for me!" he cried. "Here now I yield my allegiance to the One who died for me, and He shall be Chief of this island!"

So it was that the little Book which had been used as a pillow was the means of winning a Maori Chief for the Lord Jesus Christ, and began the great work of bringing peace to those lovely Pacific Islands.

E. G. CLARKE.



WRECKED WITHIN SIGHT OF HOME

A BOAT was returning from the season's fishing, and was within sight of home when a sudden squall upset it, throwing the five fishermen and two boys who were in it, into the sea. Three of the men clung to the boat and were rescued, but the other two and the boys were drowned. And so near to the harbour and to home! All their bright hopes of meeting friends and loved ones suddenly overturned by sudden destruction coming upon them.

Thus some will be lost within sight of heaven; who hoped to get there and meet with loved ones gone before. They were **almost** saved, yet **altogether** lost. Do you know why? Just because they had no Saviour.

See to it then that *you* have the Lord Jesus as *your* Saviour and Lord. Without Him you will perish. Sad to think of some who were once near to the Kingdom, yet they perished, because they had no Christ.

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (2) JOSEPH

Dear Boys and Girls,

The history of Joseph is a charming story. He had many dark days in his life but the charm lies in this, that God was always with him and he found God always sufficient for all his circumstances. **From the beginning of his days he lived in the fear of the Lord. As a boy he hated falsehood and bravely spoke the truth.** This brought upon him the hatred of his brothers, they hated him so much that they would have been glad to have seen an end of him. It must have been hard for Joseph to bear, but he stood for the truth and God rewarded him in due time.

A day of great trial came to Joseph when his father said unto him "Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them." He knew how his brothers hated him but willingly he went. When he failed to find them at Shechem, he might have returned home and thus got himself out of an awkward position. Many boys and girls would have been glad of such an excuse to avoid a painful duty. But Joseph was a braver and nobler youth. He would search still further into the land of Dothan until he found them.

These brothers thirsted for Joseph's blood, they shut their eyes to his tears, they steeled their hearts to his cries, and actually sold him as a slave to some Ishmaelite traders passing on their way to Egypt. But God was guiding Joseph to the highest glory and honour and power that any man could have in his day. We have no space here to write of the journey across the desert, the slave market of Egypt, the prison of Potiphar, and the great famine which spread over all the face of the earth. It was this famine, however, which brought Joseph into such great reputation. He had now risen to be ruler over the land of Egypt. Through the wisdom given to him by God, he had for seven years before the famine built great store houses, and he had stored up vast quantities of food, so that, during the time of famine, all people went to Joseph because he had the food.

¶ We might tell how Joseph's brothers came along for food and how they got well supplied. Not only so, but how they found out that the great ruler was Joseph their brother. How they were kissed and forgiven by the very one whom they had so much hated in years gone by.

You may read all about this in your Bible in the book of Genesis—it is a wonderful story. It is all so like the Lord Jesus Christ. He came into the world from the Father with a message of love but men hated Him—they rejected Him—they put Him to death. God, however, raised Him and gave Him the very highest place in Heaven. Like Joseph, He is able to dispense blessing to those who feel their need. **Guilty we all are, we have sinned against God, but pity and love fill the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ. He would draw us near to Himself and give us to feel what goodness there is with God for us.**

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. Ross.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

If your name is amongst the following, you will know that there is something wrong with your paper and which I often mention:—G. Tait, M. Tait, V. Hill, M. Cleary, R. Colegate, T. Burnett, M. Brechin, J. Miller.

I am sorry M. Chivas' and S. McConnell's papers for December were lost in the post and I trust they will still send along their answers for this year's questions. Any of you may do the back questions though of course you will not have your names in print.

I hope you will enjoy answering the questions this month. It is not easy to get story books to-day but this is a true story out of the best Book. If you read it through very carefully as you do the searchings, including the chapters which I have missed, you will come across many valuable lessons which we can take to ourselves for to-day. Also, as you read on just notice how much Joseph reminds you of our Lord Jesus Christ—the One who suffered so much for you. Have you ever thanked Him.

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR MARCH-APRIL, 1943.

1. Why did Israel love Joseph? (Genesis 37).
2. What was Joseph's first dream? (Genesis 37).
3. "And . . . the Egyptian." Write out the whole verse where these words occur. (Genesis 39).
4. For whose sake did the Lord bless the Egyptian's house? (Genesis 39).
5. What did Joseph ask the chief butler to do when it was well with him? (Genesis 40).
6. Write out the verse which ends with "prosper." (Genesis 39).
7. To whom did all countries come to buy corn? (Genesis 41).
8. "But God." Write out the whole verse where these two words occur. (Genesis 45).

JANUARY-FEBRUARY SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class.—J. Andrew, M. Beaumont, D. J. Bennett, A. W. Berrill, T. Burnett, E. Cottee, A. Cottell, D. Dodd, M. Easton, M. Farmer, H. Foreman, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, C. Hodgins, M. McConnachie, L. McDermott, M. McIntosh, K. Montgomery, S. Oliver, B. W. Page, E. Pill, E. Pugh, A. Reade, J. Reid, J. Renton, D. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, K. Rugg, R. Simpson, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, F. Walton, E. Winship.

2nd Class.—R. Espey, J. Kershaw, M. Trotter, W. Wilson.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1st Class.—J. Akenhead, M. Akenhead, D. Ambrose, M. Ambrose, M. Anderson, E. Auld, A. Barker, F. Baugh, H. Baugh, M. Baugh, G. Baxter, J. Bell, M. Bendall, P. Blackadder, M. Brechin, O. Buchan, N. Bunce, E. Butterfield, M. Campbell, M. Chivas, M. Cleary, B. Clugston, J. Clugston, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, M. Fairbairn, I. Gilchrist, D. Greiff, B. Haggard, K. Haining, N. Hamilton, M. Handcock, J. Harbottle, M. Henderson, B. Hodgins, D. Hornall, R. Ies, W. Kay, C. Leach, R. McConnachie, V. McDonald, V. McIntosh, M. Miller, M. Monger, W. Nisbet, A. Norrie, A. Oliver, L. Ovington, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, C. Peavor, J. Pringle, A. Rice, J. Robertson, M. Robertson, B. Rogerson, H. Rogerson, D. Sealey, A. Shields, A. Simpson, M. Simpson, G. Sneddon, A. Stephenson, D. Stone, J. Swanson, M. Tait, A. Thom, M. Thom, A. Towers, O. Turnbull, R. Umpleby, R. Usher, M. Waugh, E. Wilkinson, J. Williams, J. Young

2nd Class.—M. Browell, N. Byass, G. Forster, S. Forster, A. Goodwill, O. Higgins, B. Jackson.

Age 10 years and under.

1st Class.—M. Abbey, S. Adams, J. Allinson, M. Badham, B. Baugh, N. Binnie, C. Blackburn, H. Buchan, D. Carrick, J. Cockburn, R. Colegate, M. Coles, G. Coutts, W. Cutts, M. Dodds, D. Doneathy, R. Evans, V. Fairbairn, B. Greiff, P. Greiff, R. Griffiths, S. Handcock, R. Harbottle, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, J. Hayes, D. Henderson, L. Henderson, V. Hill, D. Hobson, A. Hodgson, L. Hodgson, A. Kennedy, R. Little, I. Lovett, E. May, K. McIntosh, I. Meierhafer, J. Miller, E. Monger, P. Moore, A. Murray, J. Nelson, R. Patterson, I. Peavor, F. Pringle, D. Rigg, D. Robertson, J. Short, M. Simpson, L. Stewart, J. Straight, G. Tait, A. Thomas, S. Thomas, A. Thompson, H. Wharrier, J. Wharrier, J. Wilson, M. Wilson.

2nd Class.—R. Forster, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, G. Taber, M. Tipper.

Correct Papers have also been received from:

J. R. Willis, R. McCrindle, L. Willis, G. Mattingley, A. Hay, J. West, D. Manson, R. Brown, D. Davison, M. Robson, G. Raebury, M. Sapp, W. Shaw, Laura and Lois Gate, L. Nelthorpe, F. M. Messenger, W. Shaw.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help.
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2-oz., and post to reach by end of March. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year. Prizes cease at the age of 16, but searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings,

Short interesting articles containing the Gospel will be welcomed
by the Editor:—

J. H. RUGG, 22 SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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Our Children



EXPECTING A GOOD CATCH.

(Photo, J. H. Stone)

SOMETHING WORTH READING

A BOY walked up to the bookstall in Bath station and asked the man in charge, "Have you got anything worth reading?" "It all depends what you mean by 'worth reading'" replied the man.

"Oh, I mean a boy's book," was the answer; and a moment or two later the boy walked away with a cheap book which he had bought.

That boy would have been greatly surprised if the man at the bookstall had handed him a Bible as "a boy's book." Yet it is quite true that the Bible is a book for boys and girls as well as for men and women. Most boys and girls look upon the Word of God as a very dry and uninteresting book, and only read it because they have certain lessons set from it. Here is what a Christian boy of 13 writes about his Bible:—"It was my Sunday School teacher who urged me to read my Bible. The more I came to the class the more I came to prize and read it. I have one regret and that is that I did not use it more. For the short time I have used it, however, I have been greatly blessed and helped in my Christian life."

How is it that boys don't love to study God's Word? The following testimony given by a boy answers our question. "It was not until I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, that I got right into touch with my Bible and used it."

So you see, if you really want to love and understand the Bible, you must get to know and love its Author; and the only way to do that is to come to Jesus. Have you trusted Him for yourself?

E. A.



LEFT BEHIND

WHEN Lewis was quite a small boy, he had heard how the Lord would come for his own. He knew also that His parents would be amongst those "caught up to meet the Lord in the air" for they loved and trusted the Saviour, but he was not at all sure about himself.

One evening, when he was asleep in his little bed, his parents did a most unusual thing by leaving home for a little while together.

Shortly afterwards Lewis awoke and thinking the house seemed strangely quiet, called out for his mother. Receiving no answer he called louder and louder, then, feeling frightened, he slipped out of bed and down the stairs. Neither mother nor father were in any of the rooms; then an awful dread came to the child's mind. **Had Jesus come and taken his parents home?**

Oh ! why ? why ? had he not been taken home with them ? And now tears and sobs so loud and bitter broke forth that a neighbour heard and came to see what could be the matter, but Lewis would not be comforted. How relieved he was when presently his mother appeared. He flung himself into her arms and told her between his sobs, what he thought had happened. Tenderly she soothed him, bidding him at the same time to " tell Jesus all about it, to ask God to forgive his sins for Christ's sake, so that he too might be among those caught up when Jesus came."

Surely my reader would not like to be left behind when the Lord comes for his saints. It is not the Lord's will that any should be because He has said, " Suffer the little children to come unto Me " and in another Scripture, " Him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out."

A. S.



WANTED, BOYS AND GIRLS

God wants the boys, the merry boys,
The noisy boys, the funny boys,
The thoughtless boys ;
God wants the boys, with all their joys—
That He as gold may make them pure,
And teach them trials to endure,
His heroes brave, He'd have them be,
Fighting for truth and purity,

God wants the boys.

God wants the happy hearted girls,
The loving girls, the best of girls,
The worst of girls ;
God wants to make the girls His pearls—
And so reflect His holy face,
And bring to mind His wondrous grace,
That beautiful the world may be,
And filled with love and purity,

God wants the girls.

x x x.



THE CORPORAL'S TESTIMONY

Dear Friends,

IT is with pleasure that I give my testimony as to how the Lord Jesus led me to know, and acknowledge Him, as my own personal Saviour. I cannot remember the exact date,

but the manner of it is still very plain to my memory. I was then between twelve and thirteen years of age, and had been brought up in a Christian home with three younger brothers.

The Sunday School I attended at Newport, Mon., used to give us a monthly magazine called "**Our Children,**" in which were a number of Scripture Searching questions. It happened that one night I was sat down after supper engaged in the searching of such Scriptures, when my father said, "' Young man, I think it is about time you were off to bed.' "

" Just let me finish this, please," said I,—and father agreed.

When I had laid my pen down he asked, " Well, John, have you found the portion you want? "

" Yes," said I, whereupon I was asked to read it out.

The portion was in Psalm 18, verses 1 to 3, which reads:—

" I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer ; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust ; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised : so shall I be saved from mine enemies."

When I had read the above portion, father, after a brief pause, said, " That is fine, my son, but can you really and truly say that from your heart and believe it too? "

Now I knew I could not say those words in that way, because, though from childhood's youngest days I had had the way of Life set before me,—I had not yet accepted the Lord Jesus as my own personal Saviour. I had to confess that I could not say those words in truth !

However, at my father's suggestion he and I, and my dear mother got down on our knees while we sought the Lord's help to my understanding of the truth. While on our knees, a very definite word came to my heart from God Himself as I believe. **" This is a faithful saying, and worthy of ALL acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."** I arose from my knees that night gloriously saved for time and Eternity.

Now I can say of a truth those three verses and can put an emphasis on the personal pronouns. I trust that you, too, may so be able to speak of the Lord Jesus Christ, to His Glory.

JOHN NEWTON WADE.

The above testimony was recently given to soldiers and others at the close of a Gospel Meeting, held in the North of Scotland. The corporal has proved that the Lord Jesus not only **saves** but **keeps**, and every one of our readers would likewise do well to commit themselves to Him.

Editor.

AN INVITATION

THIS is written in the Word of the Holy Scriptures to invite you to come to Jesus, the only Begotten Son of God. All are invited, including yourself, to come to Christ if you would be happy. This world is so small that it cannot satisfy the heart,—it always leaves an aching void,—notwithstanding all its pleasures and inventions. Yes, “**Vanity of vanities**” said the Preacher, “**All is vanity.**” Yet the heart is so small, in the vast ocean of the Love of God, told out at Calvary, that it can only take in a very small drop of the ocean. It is there we see the centre of the purpose and counsels of God. Yes, the Cross is God’s centre, is it yours.?

Can **you** say, as in the Song of Solomon, “I am my Beloved’s and His desire is towards me”? The Cross, how shall we approach it? The Holy meeting place for a thrice righteous God and sinful man. Yet its shadow may well bring solemnity of feeling over us, and we may tread softly where Angels come to learn. Oh, the Cross of Christ, its deep, deep wonder of Holiness and Grace where sin is completely put away, full forgiveness secured, so that God is glorified, and the sinner saved who takes this ground by faith. **Christ’s precious Blood, the foundation of security of the whole exalted position.**

But there is more than this. Christ has not remained in the grave, He is risen and gone up on High, and His position there has become ours through Grace. We are accepted in the Beloved. This means a Man is seated at the right hand of God, sinners being pardoned through His Blood, and accepted in His person on high, and all the precious fruits of Christ’s wondrous work upon the Cross. None can understand its value but the One to whom it was presented, and He understands it well.

So, my reader, may I ask, “**Have you been brought on to this most sacred ground with new life, in which by the power of the Holy Ghost to glorify God during your lifetime here?**”

This is the whole matter, nothing less than a new creation in Christ Jesus will do, so that if you have trusted Him you will then have passed into this new state, for life whilst on earth and for what awaits us in the Glory. All must perish who reject Him, and all through Grace who receive Him, receive all the fulness of that Grace. Happy is their portion, and may it be that of everyone of you, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake.

AFRAID

HAVE you ever seen an old mother hen with her family of chicks all round her ! Such funny little yellow balls of fluff they look, or yellow and brown ; but how they run about, peck and chirp ? Look at that perky little chick on his mother's back !

But all at once there is a change. Cluck, cluck, says the mother hen, and they all run quickly to her and hide under her wings. Why is this ? something has frightened them ; they are afraid, but know where to go because under those sheltering wings they are safe.

Do you remember what the Lord Jesus once said about a hen and her chickens ? He was speaking to the city of Jerusalem where they afterwards crucified Him, and He said : " How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and **ye would not.**" How good and kind He was ! and yet there were some who would not come to Him. Everyone who does come to Him and trusts Him is quite safe always, for He takes care of them.

Do you ever feel afraid ? If you do, you want to know someone to take care of you who is always near and will hear you whenever you speak. King David was afraid sometimes, but he could speak to God and say, " What time I am afraid I will trust in Thee." When he was in trouble he prayed to God and said, " hide me under the shadow of Thy wings " ; and at another time, " Yea, in the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge until these calamities be overpast." Don't you think he must have thought about the hen and her chickens when he said these things ?

How safe the little chicks must feel under their mother's wing quite covered up and hidden from sight ! Perhaps one of them fears and trembles although it is there, but it has no need. Perhaps another pokes out his head to see what is happening, but they are all sheltered by the wings ; **and if the hen can take care of her chickens, how much more can the Lord take care of His Children ?** Psalm 91 tells us how safe they are who trust in Him. " **He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wing, shalt thou trust : His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.**" and you shall not be afraid by night or by day, in darkness or in noon-day light, for He will keep you always.

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (3)

SAMUEL

Dear Young Friends,

Samuel means "asked of God" and was the name given to the boy of whom we read this month because his mother, Hannah, asked God to give her a son and she promised to give him back to the service of God all the days of his life. God heard the woman's prayer and gave her the son she desired. When Samuel was old enough, perhaps three or four years, he was taken to the house of God at Shiloh where Eli was High Priest. Eli took charge of the child and became very fond of him. He got a little linen ephod made for him so that Samuel looked like a very tiny priest.

Of course Samuel could not do very much in the house of God at first, but probably he soon got used to attending to the lamps and the curtains and going errands for Eli.

He must have slept near to Eli, for one night, when he heard a voice saying "Samuel," he ran to Eli and asked what he wanted. The old man told him that he must have made a mistake for he did not call him, so he went back to bed. Twice again the same thing happened and Eli knew that it must have been the voice of God. So he told Samuel, if he heard the voice again, to say, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth." Samuel lay down once again and soon the voice was heard, "Samuel, Samuel." So Samuel said, "Speak for Thy servant heareth." Then the Lord told Samuel about the wickedness of Eli's two sons and how He must punish them. The story was so dreadful that Samuel did not like to tell Eli till he was warned not to hide any of the Lord's words, so he told all.

Now this was the turning point in the life of Samuel. Up to that time he did not know the Lord. His life had been very beautiful and innocent, but the word of the Lord had not been revealed to him. **But, as soon as he heard God's voice, he responded and from that hour his life was changed. He received God's word and was faithful to it. And just because he kept God's word, he lived to be one of the greatest of God's servants.** All through his long life he continued true to that word he had received when a boy. He never gave up the word of God and, when he died at a good old age, all men honoured his memory and mourned his loss.

Do you want to lead a useful and happy life? Then, like Samuel, build upon the word of God. Put your trust in the Saviour. He says, "Those that seek Me early shall find Me." Will you seek Him early? Will you seek Him now while you are young? If so, He will satisfy your soul and fill your heart with joy all your days.

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

Some of you are still forgetting to put chapter and verse where you find the answers, so that those who would be in the first class are losing marks. Laura Gate only answered five questions instead of six.

When you write out your answers, please put chapter and verse at the **end**, not at the beginning. Also, do not copy out the questions, as this is not necessary.

I am glad to see some old searchers have started again and I hope they will continue.

The Lord bless you all.

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR MAY-JUNE, 1943.

1. Who called Samuel and what did he answer? (1.Samuel 3).
2. How many times did the Lord call Samuel? (1.Samuel 3).
3. "And Samuel grew" Write out the whole verse beginning with these words. (1.Sam. 3).
4. What did Samuel call the name of the stone? (1.Samuel 7).
5. Who is the "Me" spoken of in 1.Samuel 8. 7?
6. Why did Samuel bid Saul to stand still? (1.Samuel 9).
7. Why did Samuel bid the people to stand still? (1.Samuel 12).
8. What did Samuel tell the people to consider? (1.Samuel 12).

MARCH-APRIL SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over.

- 1st Class.**—J. Andrew, M. Baugh, H. Beard, M. Beaumont, D. Bennett, I. Blythe, N. Bunce, E. Cottee, M. Easton, H. Foreman, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, C. Hodgins, M. McConnachie, F. M. Messenger, K. Montgomery, S. Oliver, E. Pill, G. Raeburn, D. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, K. Rugg, R. Simpson, S. Smith, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. R. Willis, E. Winship.
- 2nd Class.**—D. Birch, A. Cattell, J. Dixon, J. Reid, J. Renton.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

- 1st Class.**—R. Allinson, D. Ambrose, M. Ambrose, M. Anderson, E. Auld, A. Barker W. Bartley, F. Baugh, H. Baugh, G. Baxter, J. Bell, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, E. Butterwick, N. Byass, M. Campbell, M. Coles, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, M. Farmer, I. Gilchrist, D. Greiff, B. Haggard, J. Harbottle, J. Hayes, M. Henderson, B. Hodgins, R. Iles, B. Jackson, W. Kay, M. Last, V. Lawson, N. Lovett, R. McConnachie, D. Manson, M. Marsh, M. Miller, M. Monger, L. Ovington, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, J. Pringle, A. Rice, B. Rogerson, H. Rogerson, D. Sealey, A. Shields, A. Simpson, M. Simpson, A. Stephenson, D. Stone, M. Tait, A. Todd, A. Towers, O. Turnbull, R. Umpleby, R. Usher, E. Wilkinson, L. Willis, J. Wilson, J. Young.
- 2nd Class.**—M. Fairbairn, Laura Gate, M. Handcock, J. Hewinson.

Age 10 years and under.

- 1st Class.**—M. Abbey, S. Adams, D. Allcock, J. Allinson, M. Badham, P. Bartley, B. Baugh, C. Blackburn, R. Brown, D. Carrick, J. Cockburn, D. Davison, S. Drury, R. Evans, V. Fairbairn, J. Gardner, K. Gardner, Lois Gate, B. Greiff, P. Greiff, T. Greshon, R. Griffiths, S. Handcock, R. Harbottle, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, D. Henderson, L. Henderson, D. Hobson, A. Hodgson, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, A. Kennedy, R. Little, I. Lovett, J. Miller, E. Monger, P. Moore, A. Murray, J. Nelson, R. Patterson, F. Pringle, M. Rainbow, D. Rigg, M. Robson, M. Sapp, B. Scott, J. Short, M. Simpson, J. Stevens, G. Tait, A. Thomas, S. Thomas, A. Thompson, H. Wharrier, J. Wharrier, M. Wiggans.
- 2nd Class.**—C. Crozier, W. Cuts, M. Dickson, D. Doneathy, B. Evans, D. Holmes, L. Holmes, I. Quiggle, J. Robinson, J. Simpson.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help.
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2-oz., and post to reach by end of May. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year. Prizes cease at the age of 16, but searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings,

Short interesting articles containing the Gospel will be welcomed
by the Editor:—

J. H. RUGG, 22 SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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Published Bi-Monthly.



Our Children



THE CHILDREN'S POOL, HARROW (Photo. J. H. Stone)

Published Bi-Monthly, 1½d. net or 1/3 per annum, post free.

“HE DIED FOR ME”

IN the great North American pine forests in the early days when settlers were few and far between, a boy and girl started to take some dinner to their father who was working in the woods. Soon after they started snow began to fall and before they reached the clearing it was a blinding storm. They wandered on until at last the boy said, “Kitty, it is getting late; I am afraid we have lost the path.”

“Oh, Donny! surely you don’t mean we are lost?”

“Don’t cry, dear little Kit,” he said, “we shall soon find father.”

But every moment the boy got more and more anxious, knowing what those terrible snowstorms were in the dense forest, and that if the snow did not cease soon every mark to guide them home would be gone. They trudged along in silence. At last Kitty said, “Donny, I can’t go any farther; I’m nearly dead now, I am so tired.”

“Kitty you must walk or else you will die out here in the cold.”

Sobbing and crying, she tried to go on. The path became more difficult, and they had to make their way on hands and knees, over roots and decayed tree trunks. The wind blew and the snow whirled in blinding clouds.

Their strength at last gave out, and they threw themselves despairingly down in the snow. Kitty cried “Oh, mother darling how I want you to-night! I’m so cold and tired, and the woods are so dark. Donny, do you think I shall see father and mother again?”

“Yes, surely you shall, if I can help it!”

“Donny, sing,” she said, “and perhaps I shall think it is mother singing me to sleep.” So Donny sang, and by and by the cold and fatigue were forgotten, for Kitty slept. The boy knew that the intense cold might cause Kitty’s death, so he resolved to expose his life to save hers. He took off his coat and overcoat and wrapped them round the sleeping child, though he knew well if aid did not come soon it would mean death for him.

In the meantime the father had reached home, and learning that the children had gone to seek for him, started off to the woods, a neighbouring settler joining in the search. A long, weary night they spent, finding no trace of the little ones. Just as the sun rose next morning, a little black spot attracted their attention. The father rushed forward and clasped his darling Kitty in his arms, with a “Thank the Lord, thank the Lord.” But his joy was changed to sorrow when he saw Donny’s dead, cold form without coat or overcoat.

“Oh, father, see, here are Donny’s things!” said little Kit.

The truth then dawned upon her. She exclaimed, " Oh, Donny, how could you wrap your things round me to keep me from freezing? Father, he has died for me ! " Her grief was intense. She could not forget the love that had sacrificed his own life to save hers.

On his grave, in that great pine forest, is an inscription—

DONNY, aged 12.
" He died for me."

Kitty never forgot that dying love, and delighted to tell, to the end of her long life, the story of one who died for her.

May our hearts be so deeply touched by the matchless love of Jesus in dying for us, that we may make his love our constant theme.

X. X. X.



THE OWL: THE BIRD OF THE NIGHT

IT was a bright moonlight night, and I was sitting late in my room overlooking a ploughed field. Suddenly a loud noise began outside and looking round, what should I see but a large owl, with his great eyes, small head, and long talons, close to my window.

No doubt he was looking for his prey, and if any young rabbit or partridge was about, it would soon fall under those great talons, from which nothing escapes. The owl is seldom seen by daylight. They hide in hollow trees, and ivy-covered walls, but when night comes down, they go forth under the cover of darkness, to seek their prey.

His wings make no noise as they fly, so that there is no warning given of his approach. He swoops down upon the tiny field mouse and little mole in a moment and kills them with a single stroke of his beak.

Wandering rabbits and belated birds share the same fate if they are found by this bird of night.

Death often comes upon dear boys and girls like this bird of night, giving no warning of his approach, but suddenly snatches off his prey. Well it is to be ready at any moment; ready to enter eternity. How can this be? **Only by having Christ: by being saved.**

Then whether death comes swiftly, or with slow unmeasured tread, you will be ready, for you will be more than a conqueror through Him who loves you, Jesus Christ, your Saviour and Lord, who overcame death and spoiled its power.

X. X. X.

BAGS

IN God's Word we read of several incidents where bags play a prominent part, and the attention of the reader is drawn to four of them: two bad and two good ones.

(1) **Bag of Sins** (*Job* 14, 17). Supposing that God sealed up all your transgressions in a bag, would you not shudder at the sight of it? Yet as surely as He sealed or numbered Job's transgressions, so surely does He know every one of yours.

(2) **Bag of Silver** (*Matthew* 27, 3). How fond we are of silver; we cannot do without money; but while it has been the cause of many a man passing into eternity unforgiven, it has never been the cause of any man entering God's glory. Judas, who had the bag and thirty pieces of silver, sold his Lord and Master for that paltry sum.

(3) **Bag of Stones** (*1 Samuel* 17, 40). Everybody knows the story of David, and how he took five smooth stones out of the brook of Elah, with one of which he overcame the giant Goliath. The great thing evident in this instance is faith. David trusted, not in the wealth of munitions, nor in the excellence of armour, but in the living God. These five stones spell FAITH, to be remembered like this—

FORSAKING

ALL

I

TAKE

HIM

Now to refer to the first bag. How can you lose your sins? How can you get rid of them? By using the contents of the second bag? No, a thousand times No; but by the contents of the third. **“Redemption by faith in Christ Jesus.”**

One stone was sufficient to slay the Giant of Gath. **One look at Jesus is sufficient to cleanse you from your sins.** (*Numbers* 21, 9).

(4) **Bag of Sayings** (*Psalms* 119, 11 and *Luke* 2, 19). Where do you keep your Bible? On the shelf, in your pocket, on your bedroom table, or in a host of other places. We read in God's Word of two people, a man in the Old Testament and a woman in the New, who kept their Bibles in a red bag.

After you have disposed of the bag by means of the third bag, we want you to keep God's **living** word in a red bag. We do not mean a bag of red cloth, or made of anything red, but like David and Mary **get it into your heart**, so that you will be able to carry it about with you everywhere you go.

B. G. D.

LITTLE BERTIE

THE following is a true story about a little boy who used to live with me. When he was only two and a half years old, his dear mother died suddenly, so Bertie was left entirely in my charge.

When he was put to bed, he always wanted to be told something about Jesus, dear mamma and heaven. Although so young he loved the Lord Jesus and was always saying, "Bertie wants to see Jesus." When told that Jesus was coming one day to take all His little lambs to be with Him, he would clap his hands with delight and say, "**Me go to.**" When the weather was bad, and he could not go out, he loved to hear Bible stories and learn hymns.

Before he was four years old he was taken suddenly ill. Five days before he was running about singing two verses of a hymn he had learnt that morning :—

" If I come to Jesus, happy shall I be,
He is gently calling little ones like me,
If I come to Jesus, He will take my hand,
He will kindly lead me to a better land."

Little did we think that he was going so soon. Just a few hours before he died his hands were uplifted and a gentle little voice said, "Jesus here, Jesus here," and so dear Bertie went to be forever with the one whom he longed to see.

Now dear children, let me ask you. **Are you ready if Jesus calls you?** Do you want to see Jesus? If your sins have been washed away by the precious blood of Jesus, then you will be one of the "jewels," for which He is coming.

Be ready !

M.J.F.



WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME

A LITTLE black girl, who had heard very little of the Saviour, commenced to go to Sunday School and eagerly listened to the story of Jesus and His love.

One Sunday she was missing from her place, and during the following week the teacher received a message asking her to call to see the little girl who was ill.

“ Oh ! teacher,” she said when the lady entered the room, “ I do want to know the way to be saved.”

“ There is only one way,” the teacher replied, and she tried to explain in simple language God’s wonderful love in sending Jesus to be our Saviour and Friend. “ Because He has died for sinners, God says that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Soon after that she left, thinking how wonderful was God’s salvation which comes freely to all who will receive it simply by faith.

The next time she saw the little black girl she said : “ I am **so** happy because I have trusted Jesus, and I know I am saved because He says so.”

Has my reader trusted the Saviour yet?

K.



SINS STICK

TH**ERE** was a man who was going through a river in a foreign land. When he came out of the river he found that many leeches were clinging to him. They had fastened on him while he was in the river, so he started to knock them off.

“ Don’t do that ! ” exclaimed his attendant. “ You will only make them stick the harder. I will prepare you a bath which will bring them all off.” He then prepared a medicated bath of some kind, which made the leeches release their hold and fall off.

Sins are like leeches—they stick. Knock them off we cannot; if we do succeed in some instances, they get hold of us again in other ways.

The only way of getting rid of our sins is God’s way, and that is by yielding ourselves to the Saviour, and letting Him rid us of them by His redeeming power.

X. X. X.



SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (4) DAVID

Dear Boys and Girls,

If I was asked to write one word to express the life of David, I would write VICTORY. David had many trials and temptations and, as we read his history, we might say, in many ways his life was a tragedy. But God was with him and all his trust and confidence was in God. So, instead of being cast down in his many distresses, he was a mighty conqueror.

King Saul was very jealous of David. In his youth, David had taken away the disgrace of Saul's army by killing the great giant Goliath, that monster of brass who walked abroad defying the armies of Israel. The praises of David had been sung by the maidens and his fame was too much for Saul. This envy was nursed until Saul could not bear the sight of David. Twice he hurled his javelin at him hoping to pin him to the wall but without success.

David was brave. He was indeed a born soldier and was always ready to fight against the enemies of God. Saul knew this and set snares for the destruction of David. He pretended to be friendly to him and made him a captain in the army. In the hope that he might be slain, Saul sent him on a dangerous expedition but David came back with fresh laurels and was more popular with the people than ever.

Saul did everything possible to slay David but failed every time. Eventually David had to leave his home to escape from Saul and he lived in dens and caves of the earth. He was hunted like a partridge on the mountains until the day of Saul's sad death.

David never allowed his trials to get on top of him but rose above them. This is the reason why he lived such a victorious life. He became king of Israel after the death of Saul and was beloved by all the people. The coronation of David was a time of great feasting and rejoicing. His reign was prosperous. He reigned wisely and well and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord.

Would **you** like to have a life of victory? You are young—would you live your life for the Lord Jesus Christ? Would you fight the Lord's battles? **You must first be freed from the burden of your sins. "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart;—he shall receive the blessing from the Lord"** (*Psalms 24, 3-5*). **The forgiveness of sins may be yours to-day by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Trials and difficulties will come—they come to all—giants cross our way but these can all be met in God's strength. Temptations may become opportunities for conquest. **The true secret of victory is abiding in Christ, Through Him we can be "more than conquerors."**

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

I am glad to welcome some new searchers from Spurgeon's homes. Also those from Bristol and Dublin. I hope you will continue and find the Scripture Searching to be a help. Several regular searchers' papers have not come in. They may be sent in later and marks will be given. If any of you wish to do the back questions I will send you the magazines.

I must remind several again that their names are in second class as they have omitted to give chapter and verse.

I wonder how many of you can tell why I ask such questions as numbers six and seven for this month. It is to make you do something which I often ask you to do. Now, can you guess?

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR JULY-AUGUST, 1943.

1. Of whom does it say "The Lord is with him"? 1. Samuel 16.
2. Who delivered David out of the paw of the lion? 1. Samuel 17.
3. In whose name did David come to the Philistine? 1. Samuel 17.
4. Why was Saul afraid of David? 1. Samuel 18.
5. What kind of people gathered themselves unto David? 1. Samuel 22.
6. How many times is David's name mentioned in 2. Samuel 5?
7. How many times is David's name mentioned in Acts 2?
8. Who wrote the 23rd Psalm?

MAY-JUNE SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class.—J. Andrew, M. Ayres, K. Beall, J. D. Bennett, A. W. Berrill, I. Blythe, A. Boag, A. Bone, F. Brightman, N. Bunce, A. Cattell, E. Cottee, J. Dixon, D. Dodd, M. Dodd, M. Easton, H. Foreman, N. Grant, S. Greenstone, D. Grimslay, E. Hall, C. Hodgine, L. McDermott, M. McIntosh, F. M. Messenger, D. Miller, P. Oates, S. Oliver, E. Pill, E. Pugh, G. Raeburn, A. Reade, J. Reid, J. W. Renton, D. Rogerson, K. Rugg, S. Smith, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, O. Turnbull, F. Walton, J. R. Willis, J. Young, T. Young.

2nd Class.—H. Beard, D. Birch.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1st Class.—M. Abbey, S. Adams, D. Ambrose, M. Ambrose, M. Anderson, E. Auld, A. Barker, G. Baxter, J. Bell, M. Bendall, L. Bleakley, P. Bunce, E. Butterwick, N. Byass, S. Carr, J. Cartwright, M. Coles, R. Crabb, L. Devlin, V. Disbury, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, M. Farmer, G. Forster, A. Goodwill, D. Greiff, K. Haining, M. Handcock, J. Haves, M. Henderson, J. Hewison, B. Hodgins, R. Iles, B. Jackson, E. Jones, C. Leech, N. Lovett, V. McIntosh, D. Manson, M. Marsh, E. May, M. Monger, C. Moore, L. Ovington, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, J. Pringle, M. Reed, A. Rice, B. Rogerson, H. Rogerson, D. Sealey, A. Shields, J. Short, M. Simpson, G. Tober, M. Thom, D. Tippey, A. Todd, A. Towers, M. Waugh, E. Wilkinson, L. Willis.

2nd Class.—J. Akenhead, M. Aitkenhead, S. Binnie, K. McIntosh, M. Sharrocks, I. Swindle.

Age 10 years and under.

1st Class.—S. Adams, M. Badham, J. Birch, C. Blackburn, R. Brown, O. Byass, D. Carrick, J. Cockburn, G. Coutts, W. Cutts, D. Davison, D. Doneathy, R. Evans, V. Fairbairn, R. Forster, B. Greiff, P. Greiff, R. Griffiths, P. Hall, S. Handcock, R. Harbottle, O. Hart, E. Hayes, I. Henderson, L. Henderson, D. Hobson, A. Hodgson, L. Hodgson, D. Holmes, L. Holmes, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, A. Kennedy, E. Monger, P. Moore, A. Murray, J. Nelson, R. Patterson, N. Pickering, F. Pringle, D. Rigg, J. Robinson, M. Sapp, A. Thompson, H. Wharrier, J. Wharrier.

2nd Class.—M. Gibson, I. Lovett, I. Quigley, M. Robson, B. Scott.

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Our Children



CYCLING UNDER DIFFICULTIES (Photo. J. H. Stone)

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A NICE WEE LETTER

IT was a nice wee letter that a nice wee girl handed to her mother at bedtime one night after having been at a Gospel meeting. It read like this:—

Dear Mother and Dad,

I have decided for Christ to-night when Mr.
 preached."

A very short letter but a very sweet one; and one that filled the hearts of mother and dad with great joy. I wonder how many boys and girls who read *Our Children* could sit down just now, write to father and mother, and say, "I have decided for Christ to-day."

Now then, before you pass on to the next article, or lay down this magazine, just have a right good think. You know you would like to have the Lord Jesus as your very own precious Saviour. You know you will never be really happy till you accept Him as such; and you know also that the time to do so is just **now**.

Will you kneel down, tell the Lord Jesus that you do trust Him, that you come to Him, and thank Him for saying: "**Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out**" (*John vi. 37*). Then write and tell father and mother, or tell them by word of mouth if you prefer to do so—"I have decided for Christ."

W. B. D.



I WANT HIM TO-NIGHT

A LITTLE girl went with her mother to a hall where the Gospel was preached, and listened attentively to an address on: 'The way to be saved'; but it seemed to her as if the preacher spoke only to the grown-up people. On the way home May asked her mother, "Is Jesus a Saviour for a little girl nine years old?"

"Yes, indeed He is," said her mother. "He is a Saviour for the youngest who trusts Him as well as for the oldest. **He died for all**, and that takes in my little May as well as her mother. But why do you ask that question, my child?"

"Because I want Him for my **own** Saviour, and I want Him **to-night**."

May had often heard the Gospel story before, but had never felt a need; but now she just opened the door of her young heart and let the Saviour in, and He made her very happy.

Oh, that some little reader may say what May said, "I want Him for my **own** Saviour, and I want Him **to-night**!" That was being **decided**, and **in earnest**, was it not?

WHERE ART THOU?

I HAVE read of a people in Africa who do not seem able to count. Arithmetic in any form is quite beyond their powers.

One of these folk was asked how many oxen he owned. He replied that he did not know.

"Then how would you know if one or two of your oxen were missing?" was the astonished question.

"Not because the number was less, but because I should miss a face" was the answer given; and how beautifully suggestive it is of God's love!

"The Lord knoweth them that are His," and as He looks around His own He misses a face here and there, someone who ought to be His and is not, and His heart of love yearns over that absent one—that missing face.

Is it yours? because you have never yet come to the Lord Jesus? To-day He is calling you, saying as He did to Adam and Eve, "**Where art thou?**"

At first in the Garden of Eden there was the most beautiful fellowship between God and His creatures, but when sin came in through disobedience, this was broken, and love, joy and peace were gone. Sin has ever since made a barrier between God and man, and perhaps you are refusing to come to Him because Satan is tempting you to think that you are too young, or that there is plenty of time or that you have no special need of the Saviour.

Do not listen to him for he is a deceiver and always brings trouble and misery to those who serve him. God is love, and has proved this in the giving of His beloved Son to die for sinners—such as you and me—on the Cross. So, as once again you hear Him ask, "Where art thou?" will you not listen, and in repentance and faith respond, "**Lord, here am I!**"

A. W.



A GOOD ANSWER

DAISY was a little girl of seven years of age. Such a happy, rosy-cheeked child, and one who loved fun as much as any I knew.

One evening, as we were coming home from our children's service, and she was skipping and jumping along at my side, I asked her, "Does my little friend Daisy love Jesus?"

"Oh, yes," she said, "I do."

"But why do you love Him," I asked.

She looked up in my face as if quite surprised that I should ask such a question and then with a bright happy smile on her face and in a tone of full, glad certainty, she replied, "Why do I love Jesus? because He loved me so much before I loved Him, and He gave Himself for me."

What a sweet answer. Happy little Daisy she knew the meaning of that beautiful Scripture, "We love Him because He first loved us." He loved us when we were unworthy, for, "**While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly.**"

Have you ever thought that it was to give **you** eternal life that He endured those hours of agony on the Cross? Do accept His unchanging love and, like little Daisy, you will be so happy in having Him as your **own** Saviour. To believe in Him gives happiness in this world, and unending joy in the long Eternity to come.

In His presence is fulness of joy, and at His right hand are pleasures for evermore. Godliness is profitable for **this** life and **also** for that which is to come.

x. x. x.



SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

IF you are saved young friend, and belong to the Lord, you will find it not only helpful but necessary in your daily life, and for your growth in grace, that each day some portion of Scripture be not only read, but thought upon and pondered in your heart.

Remember the word of God has not only been the instrument through the Holy Spirit of your conversion, but it now becomes your daily food; it is what your soul grows on, for from its chapters and verses you learn of God, of His thoughts and purposes, of His love to us in Jesus, and of His grace bestowed on us according to our need. We are taught how to walk and conduct ourselves in every relation of life, for the Word is indeed "**a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**"

Our hearts get cold and dead if we neglect our portion of Scripture; our lives get shrivelled and dry; we become useless and like the world around us, were it not for God's truth, which ever sanctifies us, and makes us like our Lord and Master.

So we need not only to search the Scriptures, that is track and trace out the various subjects and doctrines, but we have to do this **daily**. Never a day without some fresh thought, some precious word out of God's treasure, so that all day long we may

grow in the strength of it, and thus brush temptation on one side, and walk holily and blamelessly, as God would have us do.

Before we read our daily portion let us close our eyes, and breathe out this little prayer from our heart, "**Open thou mine eyes, that I may see wondrous things out of Thy law.**"

X. X. X.



A MAID WITHOUT A NAME

MANY years ago a story-teller wrote a book which he named "The Man without a Country." Don't you think it very strange indeed that any person should have no country of which he could say, "This is my own, my native land?"

But here is a stranger thing! A little maid without a name! Did you ever hear of such a thing before? "No," you say. "All the girls I know are called by a name—Mary, Alice, Violet, or some other—and whenever mother calls that name they know she wants them."

We read of this nameless maid in God's own Book—the BIBLE. There we are told she was a servant to a great soldier's wife. She lived in a day when wars often took place between two kings—the king of Syria and the king of Israel.

Well, one day the king of Syria gained a victory over the king of Israel, and, of course, he took many spoils. His mighty men even took captive this little maid, and brought her back to Syria where she became a servant to Naaman's wife—one of the king's brave heroes. **Now, the Bible says that this man was a leper.**

Do you know what a leper is? Just this—a person who has a very bad disease, which begins with a tiny spot on some part of the body, and slowly spreads, till the whole body becomes a mass of sores, and the poor man or woman longs to die. Naaman would likely try many things to cure himself, but all was in vain. **His case, like each of us as sinners, of which leprosy is a type, was hopeless.** One day good news came to Naaman. What was it? Why he could be cured! So said the little captive girl to Naaman's wife. "Oh," said she, "would that my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy."

What a kind little girl to tell how he could be cured ! Yes, for she might have said, " Oh, Naaman can die of his leprosy for all I care, he has no right to keep me a prisoner far away from all my friends." But Naaman, like many of us, had to learn that salvation from death could only be effected by carrying out God's instruction. For him, it was to bathe seven times in the river Jordan. For us, it is to repent as sinners to God and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Saviour. Have **you** done this ?

x. x. x.



HE WILL TAKE ME

I WANT to tell you about a little girl I know, who loves Jesus, and who bore a bright testimony for Him.

Her father and mother were both Christians too, and one day when father did not return from work at the usual hour, mother became very anxious and troubled. The thought flashed through her mind that Jesus might have come for His own redeemed ones, and that while father was gone she was left behind. She forgot for the moment that her salvation did not depend upon the extent of her own faith but **only on the finished work of Christ** whom she loved and served.

While these thoughts were occupying her distracted mind, her little girl lay sleeping in bed.

Father came home very late that night, and next morning at the breakfast table poor mother began to tell of her faithlessness and troubled thoughts. Her little girl listened most carefully and when mother had finished exclaimed, " Why mother ! why didn't you come and look in my bed ? for when Jesus comes **He will take me !**" Such was her simple faith in the words of the Saviour.

Can you, my reader, say the same ? Do you know Him as your own Saviour ? Have you confessed Jesus as Lord ? Are you waiting and ready for his return ?

He may come to-day !

W. J. F.



SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (5)

PAUL

My dear young friends,

Paul was a great man—a real hero. In his younger days he was named Saul. Then a very self-righteous person, intellectual, a great thinker and reasoner. He was an outstanding character in Jerusalem. He might have risen to the highest peaks of fame so far as this world goes. For the gospel of God he entertained no thought but hatred. The mention of the name of Jesus filled him with blasphemies. He persecuted the saints and shut them up in prison.

But there came a day when God laid His hand upon Saul. On the way to Damascus the Lord Jesus appeared to him in a glory above the brightness of the sun and arrested him for His service. This was the start of a mighty career. Saul's thoughts about Jesus were all changed. His name, too, was changed to Paul.

Speaking at a later date of his conversion, he said that, although he was a blasphemer and a persecutor, the **grace** of the Lord was exceeding abundant. "I was a persecutor—I am the chief of sinners," he declared.

GRACE—This was the great keynote in the life of Paul. The grace of God had captured and subdued him. He once thought that he was right—he trusted in himself and despised others. But the grace of God changed all that and made him a large-hearted christian. Grace henceforward characterised all his life. He tells us "**by the grace of God I am what I am.**"

GRACE—Paul had lived to see the gospel prosper and, in the prospect of martyrdom, as he is about to grasp his crown, his one desire still was "to testify the gospel of the **grace** of God."

Paul judged this gospel, which he once despised, worth dying for. It was the gospel of the **grace** of God. What appealed to Paul was, that the gospel was a message of grace and grace alone. Amid the music of the glad tidings, one note rang out above all others and charmed the apostle's ear; that note was **grace**—the grace of God.

We do not hear much about "grace" these days—people do not seem to like it. Probably because it makes everything of God and nothing of us. But **grace is the one hope of this fallen world—it is the joy and comfort of every saint of God.**

"**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**" This is the grace of God. It is a marvel that God should think of us in this way. We have sinned—all of us. But the Lord Jesus Christ died to put those sins away. The gospel of the grace of God is this; that God is able to deal with sinners in a way of pure mercy on the ground of the death of Christ. **You** may come to Jesus just as you are and He will save you upon your believing in Him. May all of you do so is the earnest wish of

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

I am very pleased again to welcome some new searchers and especially to hear from some at Ashley Down orphanage that they have accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

One little girl has asked for the questions to be made a bit harder! I have tried to do so this month and I hope the last two questions will not be too hard.

One paper from 218 Main St., Wilsden, has come without a name.

J. Pringle only answered four questions instead of six.

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1943.

1. What was the second question Paul asked the Lord? (Acts 9).
2. In Whose Name did Paul preach boldly? (Acts 9).
3. Write out the verse ending with "forgiveness of sins." (Acts 13).
4. What things did Lydia attend unto? (Acts 16).
5. "I commend you to God" Write out the whole verse where these words occur. (Acts 20).
6. What did the Lord say unto Paul when He stood by him? (Acts 23).
7. What effect did Paul's reasoning have upon Felix? (Acts 24).
8. What effect did Paul's defence have upon King Agrippa? (Acts 26).

JULY-AUGUST SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class.—J. Akenhead, M. Ambrose, M. Ayres, K. Beail, H. Beard, J. D. Bennett, A. W. Berrill, D. Birch, P. Bowers, N. Bunce, A. Cattell, E. Cottee, N. Davis, J. Dixon, N. Grant, J. Greshon, C. Hodgins, J. King, L. McDermott, M. McIntosh, F. M. Messenger, Q. Morgan, S. Oliver, B. Page, E. Pill, J. Reid, J. Renton, D. Rogerson, E. Rowlands, D. A. Rugg, K. Rugg, A. Shields, B. Stone, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, F. Walton, J. R. Willis.

2nd Class.—I. Blythe, A. Boag, H. Foreman, J. Ridley, S. Smith, O. Turnbull.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1st Class.—M. Abbey, S. Adams, M. Aitkenhead, M. Anderson, E. Auld, A. Barker, G. Baxter, D. Beail, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, P. Bunce, M. Campbell, J. Cartwright, M. Coles, V. Disbury, M. Easton, D. Essery, K. Fairbairn, J. Graham, D. Greiff, J. Hayes, M. Henderson, B. Hodgins, B. Jackson, A. McDonald, R. McIntosh, V. McCormack, E. May, E. Messenger, M. Miller, M. Monger, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, A. Rice, E. Rimmer, B. Rogerson, H. Rogerson, D. Sealey, J. Short, A. Simpson, A. Stephenson, D. Stone, G. Taber, E. Thompson, R. Usher, M. Waugh, L. Willis.

2nd Class.—F. Butterwick, A. Goodwill, C. Leech, J. Pringle, H. Wood.

Age 10 years and under.

1st Class.—J. Badham, M. Badham, J. Birch, C. Blackburn, R. Brown, O. Byass, D. Carrick, J. Cockburn, G. Coutts, R. Evans, V. Fairbairn, B. Greiff, P. Greiff, R. Griffiths, R. Harbottle, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, L. Henderson, D. Hobson, A. Hodgson, L. Hodgson, J. Jackson, B. Jackson, A. Kennedy, R. Little, S. McCormack, E. Monger, P. Moore, A. More, A. Murray, J. Nelson, R. Patterson, F. Pringle, D. Rigg, M. Shields, M. Simpson, E. Tetlow, A. Thompson, G. A. Thompson, M. Thompson, M. Wade, H. Wharrier, J. Wharrier.

Correct papers also received for May/June from:—

R. Little, B. Simm, I. Peavor, B. Clugston, J. Clugston, M. Robertson, J. Robertson, R. Robertson, R. McCrindle, W. Nisbet, A. Leishman, R. Usher, A. Stephenson, J. Greshon, M. Wilson, A. Simpson, R. Simpson, M. Simpson.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help.
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2-oz., and post to reach by end of September. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year.

Prizes cease at the age of 16, but searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings,

Short interesting articles containing the Gospel will be welcomed
by the Editor:—

J. H. RUGG, 22 SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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Our Children



SOMEWHERE IN DEVON

(Photo. J. H. Stone)

Published Bi-Monthly, 1½d. net or 1/3 per annum, post free.

AND JESUS SAID

WHAT power there is in the written word of God ! I remember a case in Ireland where a Testament had been torn up and the leaves thrown to the wind.

A poor man who found several pieces of the leaves picked them up and read, " And Jesus said," " And Jesus answered and said," " And Jesus said."

He thought to himself, " What ! has the Blessed Lord said so many things and I do not know them."

Struck by these simple but solemn words, " Jesus said," he went off to a neighbouring town and bought a Testament and was converted. He **believed** what " Jesus said," and was happy in a known Saviour.

J. N. D.



"MOTHER WON'T LET ME"

ONE Sunday afternoon the children were seated around their various teachers listening to the stories of God's great love. The subject which the infants' teacher had chosen that afternoon for her young listeners was " Heaven and the importance of knowing how to get there."

The children were listening very attentively and at the close of their talk the teacher wishing to make sure that her words had not been spoken in vain, asked a few questions about the lesson.

One of the questions asked was, " Do you want to go to heaven ? " Each of the four little girls answered very decidedly that they wanted to go very much, but when the teacher came to the little boy, his answer was not " Yes," but a very strange one. In his innocent way, for he was only four years of age, he said, " My mother won't let me."

He perhaps thought that heaven was such a long way off that he would not be allowed to go that distance alone.

The Lord Jesus said, " **Suffer the little children to come unto Me,**" and no one is too young to trust Him. **He is the only way to Heaven,** because He died for sinners.

Have you made Him **your** Saviour yet ?

J. L. M.

ARE YOU LOSING TIME ?

"MY watch has been losing time lately," said a young Christian, as he handed his watch over the counter to a grey-haired watchmaker. He too knew the Lord Jesus as his Saviour and sought opportunities to speak a word in season even in business hours.

The young fellow was well-known to the watchmaker, who had noticed that for some time he had not been very happy in the Lord. Taking the watch from him, he opened it, put his magnifying glass in his eye and peered into the works.

"Your watch needs cleaning," he said, as he hung it on a hook. Then looking earnestly and lovingly into the eyes of the young Christian, he said, "You too have been losing time recently." That was all he said, but it was enough. The young Christian went home to his room, fell on his knees, and from his heart rose the prayer, "Oh Lord, it is true. I **have** been losing time ; set me right."

How is it with you, my dear young fellow-believer? Have you been losing time lately? If so, may you be led to do what this young fellow did. The Lord can set you right. He can restore your soul and give you again the joy of His salvation. Get into His presence and tell Him everything, owning where you have failed, and it will not be long before you are once more rejoicing in the knowledge of His unchanging love.

"Oh keep my soul Lord Jesus,
Abiding still with Thee,
And if I wander, teach me
Soon back to Thee to flee."

X. X. X.



A NICE WEE LETTER

Dear Editor,

I enjoy reading your little paper very much.

Isn't it wonderful the way God brings people to Himself? I came to Him by a hymn.

I like to find things which are found in the Bib'e. I enjoy reading the Bible and think it is a wonderful book.

I can say, like Timothy, from a child I have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make us wise unto salvation.

I remain, Yours truly,

E. R.

(Letters like this are always welcome. *Editor*).

A CHERRY TREE

A LITTLE girl once sat on a fence in a country place eating cherries, and as she ate them she carelessly threw the stones at a distance from her.

Many years after she came as a married woman to live in a house near by, and in her garden grew a cherry tree, which had sprung from the seed she had unconsciously sown. How many, when they grow older, reap the fruit of what they have sown in childhood; naughty actions which have grown into habits and had a lasting effect on their character?

Do you think I am going to tell you to cultivate good habits, which, if you live, will develop into excellent traits of character? How foolish it would be to do this, when there is a faithful word that says—speaking of mankind—“**There is none that doeth good, no not one.**”

No! I would point you to the One who came from Heaven, not only to deliver us from the consequences of sin, but also from that nature which can only do evil continually, and give to us the liberty of the children of God.

If Jesus is your Saviour, you have One who will give you the victory in the hardest fight against indwelling sin. “**Without Me ye can do nothing**” He said, and Paul later declared, “**I can do all things through Christ.**”

May this be your daily experience.

A.S.



WHY THE BALL WAS GIVEN UP

A YOUNG girl came to me once, after a meeting I had conducted, and said, “I want to follow Christ.”

“Well,” I replied, “we always follow whom we love.”

“But I love the world too.”

“But,” I said “You cannot love both.”

“There is a ball next week,” she continued, “do you think it is wrong to dance?”

“Well, if you love dancing, go to the ball.”

“What!” she exclaimed, “go to dancing!”

“Yes, if you love it. Why, if I told you not to go, and you stayed away, you would be dancing in your bedroom; but mark my words, if you love Christ you will not go.”

It was a testing moment for her. *She did not go to the ball.* Instead of that she made a bold confession of Christ before her companions. What we follow we love, and is the God whom we worship. If it be not the living and true God, let us turn away from it and give our hearts wholly to Him. The Lord Jesus is ready to save all who call upon Him.

Will you not call upon Him NOW?

x. x. x.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

IN a busy little shop in a large town a sale was proceeding. Notices were posted up to that effect, and one which drew my attention read as follows:—

“ Bargains for all. Something for Everybody.”

I stopped to look and noticed that many people, old and young, were going in. They came out again, some with large parcels and some with small. Entering the shop myself, I also came out with a parcel, but there was one thing which had not been mentioned. *Something had to be given in exchange for the parcels.* Of course, you will all guess—**money**. True there was something to suit all who had money, but those without could not partake of the tempting offer.

Now let me tell you of a really wonderful offer, which is to all, especially to those **without money** “ Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath **no money**, come ye, buy and eat ; yea, come, buy wine and milk **without money** and without price.” (*Isaiah 55, 1*).

Here we have a really genuine offer and one which is open to all. Sometimes children have very little money of their own, and how could they accept God’s offer of salvation if money were needed to purchase it? No ! God’s gifts are free, yes free to you to-day **without money and without price** ; but at what a cost to Jesus, even the cost of His own precious life !

Will *you* accept God’s offer to-day ?

X. X. X.



FAITH OR WORKS

TWO girl friends who had not seen each other for some time previously were talking over things which had happened since they last met.

E . . . had the glad news to tell that she had been converted and was now trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as her Saviour.

“ Have you been converted ? ” she said to her friend.

“ No, but I have been confirmed. It is the same thing, only I call it being ‘ confirmed,’ and you call it being ‘ converted ’ ; but it is all the same religion ! ”

And so think many others, but confirmation is vitally different from conversion ; for however earnestly and conscientiously I may seek to carry out the vows made in my name as to my leading a good religious life, the question of my sins before God remains untouched.

I can only get right with God by being converted; that is, by *turning to Him* as a lost sinner under His judgment. As such, He freely forgives me on the ground that Christ died and shed His blood on Calvary's Cross to atone to Him for my sins.

My salvation thus rests on Christ's atoning work alone. My own efforts, merits, or good works having no part whatever in it—but now, as one forgiven and “justified from all things” (*Acts*, 12, 39) I am exhorted to walk “worthy of the Lord” and to be “fruitful in every good work” (*Colossians*, 1, 10).

The absolute necessity of conversion if we are to enter heaven, is proved by the words of the Lord Jesus Himself: **“Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter the kingdom of Heaven.”** (*Matthew*, 18, 3).

F. A.



LITTLE BERTIE

THE following is a true story about a little boy who used to live with me. When he was only two and a half years old, his dear mother died suddenly, so Bertie was left entirely in my charge.

When he was put to bed, he always wanted to be told something about Jesus, dear mamma and heaven. Although so young he loved the Lord Jesus and was always saying, “Bertie wants to see Jesus.” When told that Jesus was coming one day to take all His little lambs to be with Him, he would clap his hands with delight and say, **“Me go to.”** When the weather was bad, and he could not go out he loved to hear Bible stories and learn hymns.

Before he was four years old he was taken suddenly ill. Five days before he was running about singing two verses of a hymn he had learnt that morning:—

“If I come to Jesus, happy shall I be,
He is gently calling, little ones like me,
If I come to Jesus, He will take my hand,
He will kindly lead me to a better land.”

Little did we think that he was going so soon. Just a few hours before he died his hands were uplifted and a gentle little voice said, “Jesus here, Jesus here,” and so dear Bertie went to be forever with the one whom he longed to see.

Now dear children, let me ask you. **Are you ready if Jesus calls you?** Do you want to see Jesus? If your sins have been washed away by the precious blood of Jesus, then you will be one of the “jewels,” for which He is coming.

Be ready!

M. J. F.

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (6) SIMON PETER

My dear young friends,

Simon Peter was one of the first of the disciples of Jesus. He had a remarkable history. He was first led to Jesus by his brother Andrew.

If you turn to Luke chapter 5, you will read three things about Peter—he was **convicted, converted and consecrated**. He was a fisherman and owned a boat. So many people were pressing upon the Lord Jesus Christ as He walked by the Sea of Gennesaret, that He stepped into Peter's boat and asked Peter to thrust out a little from the shore. There from the boat, He spoke to the people. What effect this preaching had upon Peter we do not know, but, when Jesus requested Peter to sail into deep water and let down the nets which then enclosed a great multitude of fishes, Peter fell down at Jesus' feet saying, "**Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.**" He had already toiled all night and caught nothing, but the power of Christ and, probably too, the words of Christ, brought him down in deep conviction. He felt that he was a bad sinner. Would the Lord depart from him? **Would the Lord depart from any sinner who felt his need?** Oh no! Neither did Peter really wish the Lord to go away. Peter felt that he was a man full of sin—the work of conviction was deep and real.

Not only did Peter see himself full of sin but he saw the Lord full of grace. "Fear not," said Jesus, "from henceforth thou shalt catch men." He was convicted of his sin and converted by the boundless grace of God. Then he forsook all and followed Jesus. He was wholehearted and decided.

Peter became a great gospel preacher. In Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost he preached his first gospel sermon. It was a quiet and simple address. He sought to convince his hearers of their sin; he pointed out the great love of God and urged the people to respond to the gracious call of God. His words were powerful, and three thousand souls believed that day. Through the gracious and almighty power of the Holy Spirit these people, many of whom just a few weeks previously had seen the Lord Jesus Christ put to death and perhaps had joined in the cry 'Crucify Him,' felt and confessed their sin and joined themselves to the believers.

That was a wonderful day in Jerusalem and a time of great rejoicing. It would be a wonderful day in *your* history if *you* now listened to God's call, and through faith, responded to that call. Salvation is free for you to-day. "**Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

I am afraid the last two questions for September-October were rather hard so I will allow marks at the end of the year for these. Some of you are still forgetting to state chapter and verse.

A few sent in the correct answer to my enquiry in July-August as to reading through the chapter before giving the answer. First of all it is because there is often some special truth revealed when we read through and secondly because the correct answer to a question might be towards the end of the chapter.

I hope you will take special note of the questions this month. For those of us who love the Lord Jesus I think we have often to confess how much like Peter we are sometimes.

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1943.

1. What did Jesus say unto Simon Peter and Andrew? (Matthew 4).
2. What three words did Peter cry out when he was beginning to sink? (Matthew 14).
3. "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Who made this confession? (Matthew 16).
4. How often was Peter to forgive his brother? (Matthew 18).
5. Who promised not to deny the Lord Jesus? (Matthew 26).
6. Whose word did Peter remember when the cock crew? (Matthew 26).
7. "But those things . . ." Write out the verse beginning with these words. (Acts 3).
8. Whom did Peter say we ought to obey? (Acts 5).

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class.—M. Ambrose, M. Ayres, K. Beal, J. D. Bennett, I. Blythe, A. Bone, P. Bowers, N. Bunce, E. Cottee, N. Davis, R. Espey, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, C. Hodgins, F. M. Messenger, Q. Morgan, S. Oliver, E. Pill, J. Renton, J. Robertson, E. Rowlands, D. Rugg, K. Rugg, A. Shields, M. Thom, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. Willis.

2nd Class.—H. Beard, A. Berrill, D. Birch, J. Casson, N. Grant, B. Page, G. Raeburn, D. Rogerson, S. Smith, B. Stone, T. Young.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1st Class.—M. Abbey, R. Adams, S. Adams, D. Ambrose, M. Anderson, A. Barker, G. Baxter, D. Beall, J. Bell, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, P. Bunce, M. Coles, V. Disbury, B. Espey, K. Fairbairn, J. Graham, K. Haining, M. Handcock, S. Handcock, J. Hayes, M. Henderson, B. Hodgins, D. Hornal, R. Iles, R. McCrindle, M. Marsh, E. May, M. Monger, L. Ovington, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, J. Pringle, M. Reid, A. Rice, M. Robertson, B. Rogerson, D. Sealey, J. Short, A. Simpson, M. Simpson, A. Stephenson, G. Taber, M. Tait, E. Thompson, R. Usher, L. Willis.

2nd Class.—E. Auld, W. Black, S. Carr, M. Chivas, J. Clugston, W. Clugston, A. Hay, B. Jackson, A. Leishman, A. Oliver, B. Scott, I. Waldby.

Age 10 years and under.

1st Class.—D. Ambrose, J. Badham, M. Badham, J. Birch, C. Blackburn, R. Brown, O. Byass, D. Carrick, A. Christie, J. Cockburn, G. Coutts, V. Fairbairn, R. Griffiths, R. Harbottle, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, D. Henderson, L. Henderson, D. Hobson, A. Hodgson, L. Hodgson, A. Kennedy, E. Monger, A. More, A. Murray, J. Nelson, L. Nelthorpe, R. Patterson, F. Pringle, D. Renwick, D. Rigg, M. Sapp, P. Shaw, S. Shaw, M. Shields, M. Simpson, B. Spencer, J. Stevens, L. Stewart, A. Tait, G. Tait, N. Tait, E. Tetlow, M. Wade, H. Wharrier.

2nd Class.—R. Colegate, R. Evans, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, B. Scott, A. Thompson.

Correct Papers for July/August received from—

T. Barnett, M. Thom, J. Robinson, N. Binnie, M. Handcock, S. Handcock, P. Bartley, D. Davison, M. Sapp, G. Raeburn, J. Hewison, W. Bartley, M. Robson, D. A. Rugg, B. Spencer.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

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Our Children



THE FARMER'S BOY

(Photo. J. H. Stone)

GOOD NEWS

“AS cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.” (*Proverbs, 25, 25*).

Everyone in this country is looking out anxiously for news. Each day the newspapers are examined eagerly by thousands, all hoping that they will read of successes by the naval, army and air forces of the country to which they belong. Sometimes the news is good and sometimes it is bad.

Every day, too, parents and wives of sailors, soldiers and airmen are on the look-out for letters or cards from those they love. And we are sure that many of our readers whose fathers are on Active Service, love, like little Maggie, about whom you can read on another page in this magazine, to receive a letter on their birthday or indeed at any time.

Did you ever think that God has written us a letter, and do you love to read it? His letter is **THE BIBLE**, which is full of not only good news, but **the best news**. The news in the daily papers is news to-day, but stale news to-morrow, but the news in the Bible is **always** fresh and true.

The Lord Jesus says, “**Come unto Me,**” and “**him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out.**”

This surely is the very best of news and is worthy of your immediate attention. All being well you will be having a birthday as 1944 rolls on, but why not commence the year by experiencing the New Birth, without which no one can enter God’s family? The Lord Jesus waits to bless, if you will but turn to Him in repentance and faith.

A very happy New Year to all our readers !

EDITOR.



“I WANT TO FIND JESUS”

A FRIEND of ours was conducting a service for children, and at the end of the meeting, when everybody had left, there sat a little ragged boy all by himself.

The preacher went to him and said, “Well, my little man, what are you waiting for?”

He replied, “I want to find Jesus.”

The preacher, wishing to test him, said, “Well, you had better go home and tell Jesus so,” but the little boy replied, “No sir, I want to find Jesus here. Jesus don’t live in our home. He is here, so I want Him to save me here and now.”

He was saved, and went to his wretched home, taking Jesus

with him, and so proving what His Lord and Saviour had said, "him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out."

Surely this story ought to convict many who may have been brought up in Christian homes—with privileges which this boy did not have—of their sins and need of a Saviour.

x. x. x.



“ THOU GOD SEEST ME ”

THE great astronomer Mitchell was one day making some observations on the sun, and as it descended towards the horizon, there came into the range of the great telescope through which he was looking, the top of a hill seven miles away.

On the hill was an orchard, and in one of the apple trees could be plainly seen two boys stealing apples. One was picking the fruit, while the other was watching for the farmer. Seven miles away the great astronomer sat, seeing every movement of the two boys just as clearly as if he had been on the spot.

Sometimes we forget that there is Someone who does not need the aid of a telescope in order to keep a watch on our doings. How often we would act differently if we only remembered "Thou God seest me." **Let us never forget that we cannot hide from God.**

M. STUBBS.



“ THOU GOD SEEST ME ”

Oh help me to remember, Lord,

Thou seest all my ways,

And either I dishonour Thee

Or else show forth Thy praise ;

For I am not my own, but bought

With Jesu's precious blood

That I might glorify His Name

In everything that's good.

Oh help me to remember Lord,

Thy promises are true,

And what Thou sayest in Thy Word

That Thou wilt surely do ;

Guidance and power will give to those

Who choose the narrow way ;

Sorrow, to those who turn from Thee

And wilfully do stray.

Oh help me to remember, Lord
 That even I can be,
 A shining light that those around
 May glory give to Thee.

Then hold my hand and keep me close
 To Thy dear wounded side,
 Until the pilgrimage is o'er
 And I with Thee abide.

A. S.



IS YOUR DADDY A SOLDIER AND ARE YOU A SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST ?

THE following letter was sent by a soldier to his daughter many years ago. How would you like a letter like this ?

“ My Very Dear Little Maggie,

“ This ought to reach you near about your birthday, and I shall write to Hugh besides. Whenever your birthday comes, it makes me sad to think that so many years have passed without my seeing you, and I wonder how many more will pass before I see you again. I can remember you so well the day I wished you good-bye. You were such a dear wee thing, and you had your arms round my neck, and cried just as if you knew I was going from you, and I often wonder now what you are like, and wish I had your arms round my neck again. We soldiers have had such lives, that it makes us think more of home and all the kith and kin over the sea. I have been thinking what I want you to be, my dear Maggie, and on your birthday you must find out whether you are like this, and if not, ask God to make you so.

“ I want you to be **HUMBLE**. First be humble before God to feel how sinful you are, and how you can do nothing to save yourself, but must come as a guilty sinner to wash in the blood of Jesus. And then the thought of how sinful you are before God must make you humble to everyone. If you are praised, you must remember that He knows your sinfulness within ; if you are reproved, do not be proud or angry, because you must feel how much He sees that deserves reproof far more than you receive. My dear Maggie, often think that a proud look is an abomination to the Lord, and that he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. If we think of how humble Jesus was, it will help to make us humble.

“I want you to be **TRUTHFUL** in word and deed. A person who is deceiving is a coward before God and man, and there is nothing so disgraceful to a soldier as to be called a coward.

“I want you to be **GENTLE**, for I should be very sorry if my dear little girl were to be like the poor children who stray about here in the barracks, and are so rough and rude; and besides, Jesus was gentle like a Lamb.

“I want you to be **OBEDIENT**. **First of all to God**, then to your mother and your teachers. The Bible is God's word of command, and remember, my dear Maggie we want you to fight manfully under the banner of Jesus Christ, and to follow His will to your life's end.

“I want you to be **DILIGENT**, because idle people are always unhappy, and because God tells us to be diligent. There is nothing that we soldiers dread out here so much as having nothing to do, and I am sure that you will always be happy if you have something useful in work, or lessons, or play in hand.

“And now, my dear Maggie, I must write no more, as I have told all news to mother in my letter to her. I want you to read on your birthday in the sixth chapter of Ephesians, beginning at the eleventh verse, and to ask God to give you all his armour for the New Year. You are a soldier's daughter before the world, **but I want you to be a real soldier before Jesus Christ, and He will help you to fight manfully if you ask Him.**

“With my best prayers and love I conclude, so no more this time from your affectionate father.

H. M. CHRISTIE.”



FIRST THINGS FIRST

IN Broadstairs, a town between Ramsgate and Margate on the coast of Kent, there is an old house, near the little harbour, where the famous English writer Charles Dickens lived for a time. Written on one of the walls of this house are these words from the Bible: “**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.**”

Of course these words are well known to the readers of this magazine. But we are apt to be careless about things we are familiar with, and so we need to be reminded. You sing sometimes the words in a well-known hymn: “I forget so soon.” The fact is, we must learn to concentrate, that is, to gather up our attention and fix it upon the things that matter most.

Of course there are many things that are important and desirable in their way. For instance, education is important, and those who are lazy or careless while at school usually live to

regret it. It is nice to have friends who help us and whom we can help and whose company we can enjoy. And the best of all earthly mercies is good health, which we do not always prize enough.

But none of these good things is the thing of *first* importance. We are to seek *first* the Kingdom of God. We *have* bodies, but we *are* souls. Since God made us and preserved us, He has the first claim upon us. If you owe a duty to your parents, your teachers, your friends, your government, **you owe your first duty to your God.** And further, He is your best Friend. And so it should be quite natural for you to love to think about Him, and seek His company, and do His will. And you know that these Higher Things ought to be attended to. And yet you feel a strong inclination to keep God at a distance. Have you thought out the reason for that?

The reason is simply this: you are not right with God; your sins are not forgiven. **What you need first of all is the forgiveness of your sins and the new life that Jesus gives to all who trust Him.** Then you will know God, and love Him, and want to please Him.

Will you then tell Jesus that you need Him to save you from your sins and to give you the new life, and trust yourself to Him as your Saviour and King?

E. ADAMS.



PRIZE LIST, 1943

Dear Young Friends,

Here is the prize list which no doubt you are eagerly waiting to see. I am sorry most of the winners are girls and I hope the boys will try harder this year. A Bible will be given to the 1st Prizewinners as before. These are given through the kindness of two brethren.

Will Ann Stephenson please let me know her full address.

I am glad to welcome some new searchers and trust they will be blessed in searching the Scriptures.

You will notice that there is an **extra** question this month. I do not want you to send me the answer to this. Just get quietly alone with the Lord Jesus and tell Him.

Your loving friend,
E.M.A.

Age 14 years and over.

1. Joan Greshon, 7 Crawley View, Powburn, Northumberland.
2. Keith Rugg, 22 Shaftesbury Street, Stockton-on-Tees.
3. F. M. Messenger, Ramsey, West Road, Wigton, Cumberland.
4. Muriel Thom, 1 Springbank Place, Aberdeen.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1. Margaret Monger, 76 Mansell Road, Greenford, Middlesex.
2. L. Willis, Newtown, Thropton, Morpeth, Northumberland.
3. Hilda Pearson, 5 Chapel Row, Philadelphia, Co. Durham.
4. Ann Stephenson, Powburn, Alnwick, Northumberland.

Age 10 years and under.

1. E. Monger, 76 Mansell Road, Greenford, Middlesex.
2. Margaret Sapp, 44 Mount Park Avenue, South Croyde.
3. Myrtle Simpson, Riverview, Coolaney, Co. Sligo.
4. Marion Badham, 77 Bridge Street, Doncaster.

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (1)

THE SOWER AND THE SEED

Dear Boys and Girls,

The Lord Jesus Christ loved to give nature lessons. He often spoke about the birds, fishes, trees, flowers and animals. He gave many wonderful talks with nature as a background. This particular day of which we read in Luke 8, no doubt, was a sunny, spring day. We read that much people were gathered together and Jesus spoke to them this remarkable parable.

It is probable that away on the hillside within sight of the people was a farmer engaged in his field with his seed. It was a sight you might see any fine spring day in our own country. The sower goes over the soil scattering his seed as he goes, first with one hand and then with the other, so that the seed is broadcast over the field.

Now the Sower in this parable is the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, and the seed is the Word of God. The Word of God is sown broadcast but it falls upon different classes of soil. You will notice, as you read the chapter, the various kinds of ground on which the seed falls. I do not want to say anything about this but I do say that, if anyone wants to cultivate wheat or vegetables or beautiful flowers with success, he must have good ground.

What does it mean to be on good ground? There are three things said about those on good ground. They **heard** the word, and they **kept** it (or **received** it, as another gospel says) and they **brought forth** fruit.

You often **hear** the word, I have no doubt. You probably know quite well the way of salvation. But have you **received** the word into your heart? This is the most important thing. Do not think that because you go to Sunday School or listen to gospel addresses that you will be all right. It is very good indeed that you do go where the word of God is spoken. Hearing only is not enough. See to it, dear boys and girls, that your hearts are right in the sight of God—honest, receptive—hearts open to receive the word of God. The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." (*Psalm 119, 11*). This is the way to blessing and a fruitful life.

The seed is still being sown to-day. We rejoice to hear how it does its gracious work in the hearts of men and women. At the present time there is a great demand for Bibles—never was there such a demand. The Word of God is being scattered abroad and we hear of blessing from all parts of the world. Last year a Moslem in Iran bought a New Testament and he read it through in a week. He was much impressed by what he read. He sought out a Bible seller and bought a copy of the whole Bible. The reading of this book thrilled him and affected him so much that he looked out for an evangelist to explain the book to him. He found a christian man who pointed him to the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. Listen to what he said. "I gave myself to Jesus Christ and accepted the message of salvation that had come home to me. I felt that a voice called to me and said 'All your sins are forgiven.' Ever since I have had a joy no one can take from me and never am I troubled about my past sins."

May you all receive the good seed into your hearts and abound in fruitfulness for God!

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. ROSS.

QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1944.

Subject:—The Sower. Luke 8.

1. What is the Seed?
2. Into how many different kinds of ground did the seed fall?
3. Where did the seed fall which withered away?
4. What three things choke the Word that fell among thorns?
5. Why does the devil take away the Word out of their hearts?
6. Why do some receive the Word with joy and in time of temptation fall away?
7. What seed sprang up and bare fruit?
8. Write out the second verse which speaks about "good ground."

What kind of ground is **your** heart like?

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class.—J. Akenhead, M. Ambrose, M. Ayres, D. Beall, K. Beail, H. Beard, J. D. Bennett, A. W. Berrill, D. Birch, I. Blythe, P. Blowers, N. Bunce, E. Cottee, A. Cowe, N. Grant, S. Greenstone, J. Greshou, C. Hodgins, A. Leishman, R. McCrindle, F. M. Messenger, E. Pill, G. Raeburn, J. Reid, J. W. Renton, E. Rowlands, D. A. Rugg, K. Rugg, A. Shields, S. Smith, M. Thom, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, J. R. Willis, J. Young.

2nd Class.—M. Balneaves, J. Casson, S. Jess, B. Moir, W. Nisbet, S. Oliver, J. Robertson, M. Robertson, D. Rogerson, T. Young.

Age 11 to 13 years.

1st Class.—M. Abbey, D. Ambrose, M. Anderson, A. Barker, G. Baxter, J. Bell, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, E. Butterwick, M. Campbell, S. Carr, M. Clamp, M. Clarke, B. Clugston, J. Clugston, D. Cockburn, M. Coles, S. Faunch, N. Fraser, D. Greiff, J. Hayes, M. Henderson, B. Hodgins, D. Hornal, B. Jackson, S. Jervis, C. Jobson, A. Kane, V. McDonald, V. McIntosh, E. May, E. Messenger, M. Monger, T. Nichol, L. Ovington, J. Patterson, H. Pearson, J. Pringle, A. Rice, M. Robertson, B. Rogerson, D. Rossiter, A. Rutherford, D. Sealey, K. Shillito, J. Short, R. Simm, A. Simpson, M. Simpson, A. Stephenson, M. Tait, A. Towers, R. Usher, L. Willis.

2nd Class.—E. Auld, D. Doneathy, L. Doneathy, P. Edwards, L. Gibson, J. Graham, G. Johnson, M. Miller, L. Northey, M. Palmer, I. Peevor, R. Pratt, G. Sneddon, B. Tait, A. Wilson.

Age 10 years and under.

1st Class.—D. Ambrose, M. Badham, J. Birch, C. Blackburn, M. Broadbent, J. Brown, R. Brown, O. Byass, D. Carrick, J. Cockburn, B. Cole, E. Coutts, G. Coutts, N. Fraser, M. Graham, B. Greiff, P. Greiff, R. Griffiths, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, I. Henderson, L. Henderson, D. Hobson, A. Hodgson, L. Hodgson, J. Jackson, R. Jackson, A. Kennedy, E. Monger, R. Moore, A. More, A. Murray, L. Nelthorpe, E. Northey, R. Patterson, F. Pringle, D. Renwick, D. Rigg, R. Richardson, D. Robertson, I. Robertson, J. Robinson, S. Robinson, M. Robson, M. Sapp, P. Shaw, S. Shaw, M. Shields, M. Simpson, P. Smith, B. Spencer, J. Stevens, G. Tait, E. Tetlow, A. Thompson, C. Veitch, B. Wade, M. Wade, H. Wharrier, J. Wharrier

2nd Class.—J. Armstrong, J. Badham, N. Binnie, C. C derhead, J. Clamp, J. Pratt, G. Wilson.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help.
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2-oz., and post to reach by end of January. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year.

Prizes cease at the age of 16, but searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings,

Short interesting articles containing the Gospel will be welcomed
by the Editor:—

J. H. RUGG, 22 SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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A FRIEND IN NEED

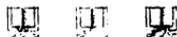
DO you see that little girl with tear-stained cheek and heaving breast? She has wandered from her cottage home, and is lost in the midst of the whirling traffic of the crowded street. She needs a friend to take her by the hand and lead her home. I was lost once and needed just such a friend, and I have found one, nay, He found me, for He came to seek me. The name of my friend is Jesus.

Look at that lad. He has walked in evil ways with evil companions; he has robbed his employer and has been caught by the stern-faced policeman, and must stand before the magistrate to-morrow. He needs a friend to pay his fine and lead his feet into the right ways. I was once like that lad. I had gone astray, and robbed God of glory by my sins. The judgment was before me. I needed, oh! how sorely I needed a Friend, and I have found one. He paid the debt and has taken my hand and leads my feet in the pleasant ways, the paths of peace. The name of my friend is Jesus. "Oh, how He loves me!"

Is He your Friend? How much you need Him—lost, guilty, and in debt, in great danger, and on the road to judgment. You need Jesus more than anything besides, and He needs you. He is the Friend without a fault or flaw who never changes and whose fullness is equal to your every need. He desires your friendship; that he might obtain it He showed Himself to be friendly and died upon the Cross. "**He loves at all times,**" and "**sticketh**" (that's what we all want—someone who will stick). **He sticketh closer than a brother.** Yes,

"Jesus is the Friend in Need
And the Friend Indeed."

J. T. MAWSON.



HOW JACK WENT

"**J**ACK, the captain wants you!"

Jack was at work in the smith's shop, making shoes for some of the horses of the regiment.

His comrade who had called him to go to the officer was clean and smart, fresh from parade.

Jack looked for a moment at his dirty clothes and grimy hands, thinking for a moment that he could not go to the captain thus. But his mate cut his deliberations short with

“ Jack, the captain wants you **now** ! ”

The hammer was thrown down at once, and the soldier untidy though he was started off to meet his officer who was a Christian.

“ I'm glad you can obey orders, Jack ! ” said the Captain kindly when he saw him. “ You came as you were, ” adding “ and that is just how you must come to Christ, Jack, **just as you are.** ”

Have you had the thought that you must make yourself fit before coming to the Saviour? As a needy sinner you are fit. You need not tarry. Food is provided for the hungry. Water is provided for the thirsty. Medicine is provided for the sick. Hospitals are provided for the diseased. **The Saviour is provided for sinners.**

He Himself said, “ I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. ”

The Lord Jesus Christ calls you NOW. Say to Him

“ Just as I am without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come. ”

X. X. X.



“ PLEASE SAVE ME NEXT ”

“ **P**LEASE save me next—Oh ! please save me next ! ” cried a little girl to a young officer.

The ship on which both had been journeying was sinking, and the boats were being rapidly filled with terrified passengers. The child knew her need, and with piteous cry sought to call attention.

Alas ! for her there was no deliverance ; before she could be saved the vessel sank, carrying with it to a watery grave many who a little before had been rejoicing in the prospect of soon reaching their homes and being welcomed by their loved ones. There was no saviour for them.

There is a Saviour for you—a present and permanent Saviour, and if your cry goes up “ Please save me next ! ” that cry shall be answered with *immediate* salvation, for there stands written again and again in the word of God, who cannot lie

“ WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED. ”

X. X. X.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

"Behold *NOW* is the accepted time; behold *NOW* is the day of salvation"—(2 Cor. vi. 2).

John 1, 12.

DEAR little ones and big ones too,
 God sends this message 'tis for *you*;
 Now is the time, Salvation's Day,
 Receive the Saviour while you may.

Luke 18, 16.

How old are you? Six, seven, or eight?
 Come *now* to JESUS, do not wait,
 The knocker on His door is low,
 The smallest child to Him may go.

Rev. 21, 27.

How old are you? Nine, ten, eleven?
 Is *your* name written yet in Heaven?
 The Book of Life alone records
 The names of those who are the Lord's.

Galatians 2, 20.

How old are you? Twelve or thirteen?
 Ask your own heart—"What does it mean
 That JESUS died on Calvary?"
 —Can you reply—"It was for *me*."

John 10, 9-11.

How old are you? Fourteen or more?
 Come! enter now through Christ the Door;
 In Him is everything you need,
 In Him you'll find new life indeed.

Rev. 22, 17.

How old are you? That matters not.
 His blood alone can cleanse each spot.
 You need Him, whether young or old.
 There's room for all within His fold.

Hebrews 4, 7.

**How old are you? The years pass by
 And soon will come ETERNITY.
 The Holy Spirit calls *to-day*,
 Come *now*, His loving call obey.**

ELSIE S. PINNEY.

“ BRIDGE UNDER REPAIRS ”

THOSE words appeared on a board near a bridge in Suffolk. What useful things bridges are ! In fact in this country we could not get any distance in one direction if there were no bridges to carry the road over rivers, canals, or railways.

Is it safe ? That is the first question we put to ourselves if we have any doubt about the strength of a bridge we wish to cross. Now, the Bible brings us the knowledge of God and of the next life. It is like a bridge from this world to the next. Is it safe ? That is, is it reliable, is it true ? All those who love God say that it is. **THE BOOK has convinced the best people in the world, age after age, and all over the world, that it comes from God. There is no doubt that it is quite trustworthy, and it has never needed any repairs, because God made it. You may fully trust it.**

And the Bible tells us, first hand, about the Lord Jesus. It tells us how He built that great bridge by which we can cross from the shore of danger and distance from God, to the shore of forgiveness and nearness to Him. I mean, of course, the great work of Jesus on Calvary, when He put away our sins by dying for us sinners. Have you used that bridge ? Have you made use of that Way back to God which He has provided ? It is perfectly safe. It has never needed any repairs. Millions have proved that it is trustworthy.

Yes, the great bridge which Jesus built when on the Cross is perfect. Nothing can be added to it to make it more reliable. It is finished and it never needs any repairs. But to reach the forgiveness of our sins we must cross that Bridge. To know that it is trustworthy, to admire it, to see others crossing it, will not do. You must cross it *yourself*, that is, you must *trust* the Lord Jesus and His finished work on Calvary for sinners such as you.

E. ADAMS.



IT KEPT STABBING ME

NEARLY all who are converted are converted in their childhood or youth. The truth of this was tested with a few Christians in a railway carriage. Each one was asked “ When were you brought to Christ ? ”

Various answers were given : “ At eighteen,” “ At twelve,” “ At fifteen,” and so on. One of the nine was blessed with the knowledge of salvation at “twenty-five” all the others before they reached the age of twenty. But it has been proved with

great numbers again and again in large conventions of believers.

When asked, "Will all those who were converted before they were twenty years of age kindly rise from their seats!" the large majority have stood. Between "twenty and thirty years of age," a small number, between "thirty and fifty," just a few. "Above fifty," only one or two individuals.

A Bible-class teacher was giving these facts to a young woman in the class, and added "If you are not converted in your 'teens you are not likely ever to be converted at all."

Among those present was a young woman of nineteen. As she sat at her machine work during the days that followed, the statement haunted her. She knew that she was unsaved and she was in her last "'teen." Was she **never** to be saved?

"It kept stabbing her all through the week," she told the teacher at the next Sunday class; and that day she came as she was to the sinner's Saviour and found Him waiting to receive and bless her.

Will you not **now** do likewise?

x. x. x.



A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Rugg,

Thank you very much for the beautiful Bible you sent me. I am very glad it is a brown one as the one I have is black, but it does not really matter about the covers, but what we find inside.

I find it very interesting doing the questions, and now I can use my Bible to find them.

I think a Bible is the best prize you can have, but I hope I have not deprived one of the other searchers of having a Bible of their own, as they are so hard to get.

I was converted two years ago, and **I am very glad that I decided while I was young because of the many temptations that come to children as they grow older.** I expect they wish they had decided for Christ sooner.

I like the stories in "*Our Children*" very much and as soon as the book comes I want to read it.

Again thanking you for your kindness,

Yours sincerely,

M.M.

(We heartily agree with our young friend that it is wise to trust Christ whilst young and so to have Him as the Shepherd in the early years of life's journey.

The Lord Jesus *died* to save sinners, and He now *lives* to keep those who trust Him.)

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (2)

THE GREAT SUPPER

Dear Young Friends,

This month we are reading about a great supper. It is *great* because of three things—

1. The Person.
2. The Proclamation.
3. The Provision.

The Person who provides the supper is, of course, God Himself. **What amazing grace! What almighty love!** That He should think of us! We, who had sinned against Him and despised the Lord Jesus Christ whom He sent into the world to be the Saviour! The greatness of God is far beyond our minds to understand. Yet He looks down from His throne in glory and spreads this feast out before the sons of man.

Notice the proclamation—**“Come; for all things are now ready.”** Did the people come? No! They went after their business, their possessions and their friends. Not one person came! A great supper already prepared and not one invited person would come. Think of it! They were stubborn and wilful—they would not have the invitation of God’s love.

But the mighty grace of God is such that He will have His house filled. So the servants go into the streets and lanes of the city and even to the highways. “Tell them to come in—tell all whoever you meet—compel the people to come.” They bring the poor and diseased, and all are made welcome.

God’s invitation is for everybody. There is not one of us to-day who can be exempt from the invitation. Young and old alike may come. God delights in showing grace, and it is for His own glory that He saves us—not because *we* deserve any merit.

How often that lovely word “COME” fell from the lips of the Saviour! He first came Himself into the world. He came to seek and to save the lost. The work of redemption completed, He has gone back to heaven and still the same voice calls to you—to every sinner—**“Come; for all things are now ready.”**

Then the provision is great—He made a *great* supper. The table is well stocked. There is abundance. The Lord has provided a full salvation for all who come. “With the Lord is *mercy* and with Him is *plenteous* redemption.” (Psalm 130. 7).

I wonder who will respond to the call to-day! Come *now*; no season could be better. If you tarry till you’re better, you will never come at all. Come *now*; it is God’s time; tomorrow is Satan’s time. Come *now*. Why delay to be happy?

C. S. ROSS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

I am pleased to welcome the new searchers and I trust they will find the scripture searching a help and a blessing. Please put chapter and verse beside your answers.

Two papers have come without name or address, one from Ireland and one from Hayward’s Heath.

A few papers for November-December were received too late. I hope those who sent them will start afresh and try to be earlier.

I trust D. Birch will soon be well.

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

QUESTIONS FOR MARCH-APRIL, 1944.Subject: **THE GREAT SUPPER.** Luke 14.

1. "Great," "Many." Write out the verse where these two words occur.
2. With what message was the servant sent at supper time?
3. How many of them made excuses? (Answer this carefully).
4. What four classes of people were invited from the streets and lanes of the city?
5. "It is done as thou hast commanded." What are the next five words?
6. Why had the servant to go out and compel them to come in?
7. What verse proves that there was no second chance?
8. "Blessed - - - Kingdom of God." Write out the sentence where these words occur.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY SEARCHERS.**JANUARY-FEBRUARY SEARCHERS**

Age 14 years and over

1st Class. M. Ambrose, M. Beaumont, A. Berrill, D. Birch, I. Blythe, N. Bunce, M. Easton, N. Grant, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, J. Hewison, A. Lovett, R. McCrindle, F. M. Messenger, W. Nesbit S. Oliver, B. Page, E. Pill, A. Reade, J. Reid, J. Renton, R. Reynoldson, J. Robertson, B. Rogerson, D. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, K. Rugg, A. Shields, B. Stone, M. Thom, A. Thomas, K. Tombs, M. Tombs.

2nd Class. R. Blenkinsopp, H. Foreman, D. Quigley.

Age 11 to 13 years

1st Class. M. Abbey, H. Adams, D. Ambrose, M. Anderson, A. Barker, W. Bartley, G. Baxter, J. Bell, M. Bendall, S. Binnie, R. P. Brown, P. Bunce, N. Byass, M. Campbell, S. Carr, M. Coles, E. Cudmore, R. Davis, D. Donaldson, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, M. Fairbairn, Laura Gate, J. Graham, B. Grieff, D. Grieff, M. Handcock, S. Handcock, J. Hayes, I. Henderson, L. Henderson, M. Henderson, B. Hodgins, A. Hodgson, D. Hornal, R. Iles, R. Jackson, G. Johnson, F. Kennedy, M. Lacey, S. Lancaster, D. Logan, R. Love, C. Lumsden, D. Manson, E. Messenger, M. Monger, P. Monk, G. Murray, L. Northey, M. Oliver, L. Ovington, J. Patterson, R. Patterson, H. Pearson, I. Peavor, A. Rice, E. Richardson, M. Robertson, A. Rutherford, M. Sapp, D. Sealey, M. Shirran, J. Short, R. Simm, A. Simpson, M. Simpson, A. Stephenson, M. Stewart, B. Tait, A. Towers, R. Usher, M. Waugh, J. Wharrier, E. Wilkinson, R. Williams, L. Willis, J. Wilson.

2nd Class. M. Clamp, E. Cruickshank, S. Faunch, Lois Gate, B. Jackson, G. Sneddon.

Age 10 years and under

1st Class. J. Andrew, W. Andrew, M. Armour, J. Badham, M. Badham, P. Bartley, N. Binnie, J. Birch, C. Blackburn, K. Brown, O. Byass, C. Caderhead, D. Carrick, J. Cockburn, B. Cole, E. Coutts, G. Coutts, J. Davis, B. Denyer, P. Denyer, V. Fairbairn, W. Faunch, H. Gibson, M. Gibson, W. Gray, P. Grieff, R. Griffiths, M. Grisdale, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, J. Hewison, L. Hodgson, J. Jackson, D. Lacey, G. Lacey, O. Lacey, E. Love, I. Lovett, E. Monger, J. Monk, A. More, A. Murray, J. Nelson, L. Nelthorpe, E. Northey, J. Oliver, M. Perry, I. Quigley, D. Renwick, D. Rigg, D. Robertson, I. Robertson, M. Robertson, E. Rogers, P. Shaw, S. Shaw, M. Shields, P. Smith, B. Spencer, G. Tait, E. Tetlow, A. Thomas, S. Thomas, C. Veitch, M. Wade, P. Wade, H. Wharrier.

2nd Class. M. Cruickshank, A. Stevens, J. Straight, C. Wade.

Correct papers also received from:—E. Cottee and M. Palmer.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2-oz., and post to reach by end of March. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year. Prizes cease at the age of 16, but searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings,

Short interesting articles containing the Gospel will be welcomed
by the Editor:—

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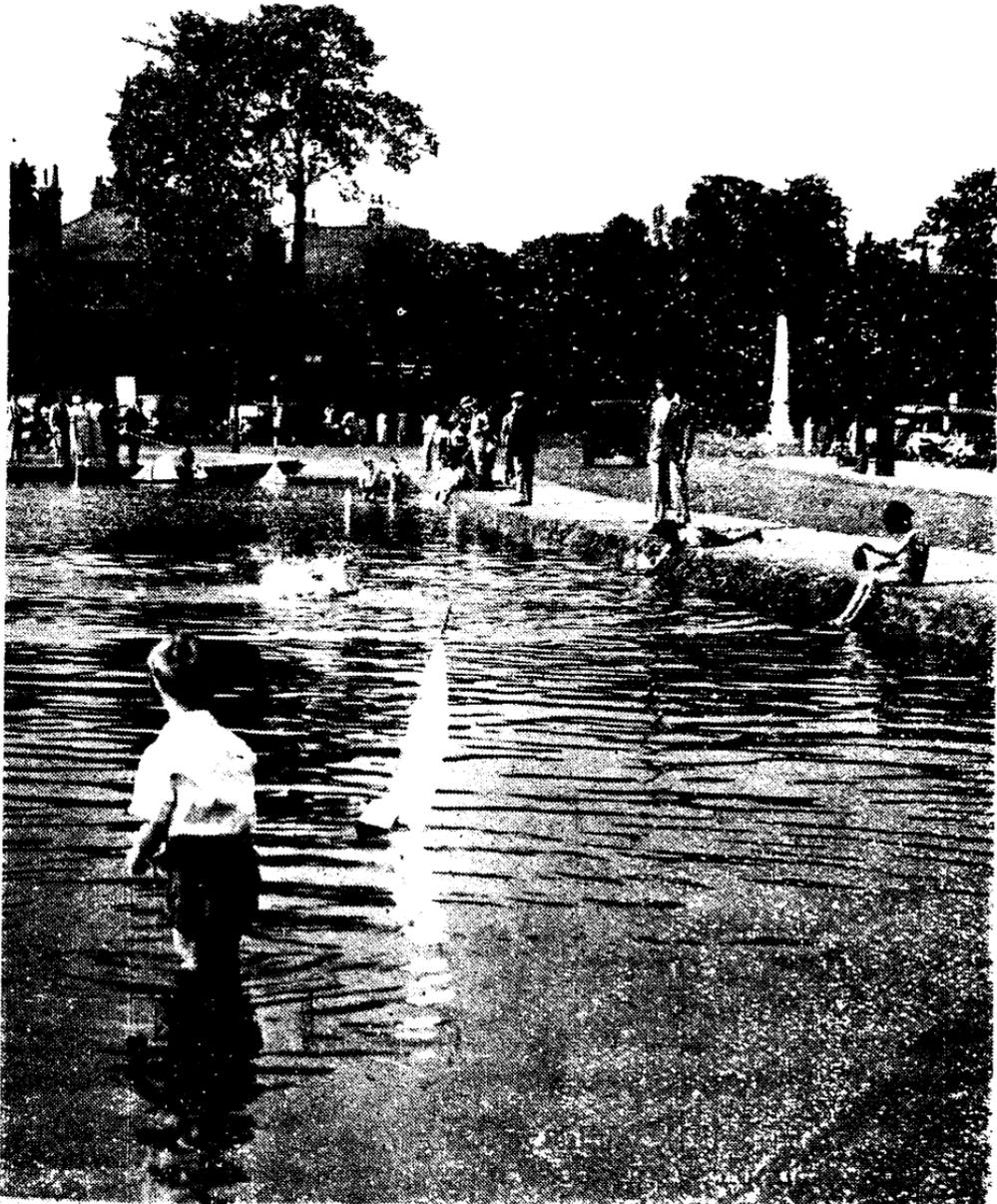
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Our Children



THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

(Photo J. H. Stone)

Published Bi-Monthly, 13d. net or 13 pcf annum, post free.

WHAT IS SIN?

A NUMBER of children were once asked the question—
“WHAT IS SIN?”

They wrote their answers upon their slates.

One wrote “Sin is lying.”

Another, “Sin is swearing.”

Another, “Sin is disobedience.”

But another gave the best answer. It was

“Sin is just having your own way.”

Yes, to do my own will—to go my own way—is sin. And everyone of us has done this and so needs salvation.

Salvation is only to be had of the Lord Jesus Christ, who obtained it by the sacrifice of Himself. He offers you this now without money and without price.

Will you accept it, and thank Him for the gift?

X. X. X.



THE ONLY WAY

If you could live the longest life,
And never, never sin,
This would not open heaven's gate
And give you entrance in.
If you could do the noblest deeds
Of wisdom, love and grace
Not so is gained the Father's smile
Or seen the Saviour's face.

Though you might shed the bitterest tears
And grovel in the dust,
Still not in tears and penances
Or ought else could you trust,
**Only the Saviour's precious blood
Can wash and make you clean,
Clothe you in robe of righteousness,
Perfect, complete in Him."**

If as a little child you come,
Simple, and poor and weak,
If in your sin and want and need,
The sinner's Saviour seek,

Then, all the "if's" are done away,
 You shall have freely given
 Pardon and righteousness and peace
 His love, His home in Heaven.

A. S.

"SAFETY IN NUMBERS"

THAT is often true. Weak nations have often made alliances with strong ones for their own protection against powerful neighbours. Wolves hunt in packs; and elephants and other wild animals keep together in herds as a protection against their enemies of the forest or the field. If a traveller wishes to cross the desert or a piece of country infested with robbers, he joins a caravan and so feels safe from danger. And in any times of danger or trouble people like to be in the company of others.

But the saying "safety in numbers" is *not* true when it is a question of escaping the punishment of God for wrong doing. No doubt the people whom Noah warned said to themselves, "It is true we are doing wrong and deserve to be punished, but everybody's doing it." But that did not prevent them from dying one by one.

We sin one by one, and in order to escape the punishment we deserve, we must come to the Saviour one by one. Each one must take for himself or herself the gift of God. Don't lose yourself in the crowd. God has His eye on you, and wants to bless you.

An invalid Christian man who was anxious about the salvation of his little daughter, said to her one evening: "My dear, bring me my medicine."

Of course his request was promptly obeyed.

"Now, dearie," said he, "drink it."

"Drink it, father?"

"Yes, dear, drink it."

"But, father, it won't do *you* any good if I drink it."

"No, my child, it will not. And now listen. Just as you can't take my medicine for me, so I can't take Christ for you. I can pray for you, and speak to you; but remember, you must take Jesus for yourself."

You must take Christ for yourself. Your safety does not lie in numbers, but in having the Saviour.

E. ADAMS.

A LIGHTHOUSE

HAVE you ever seen a lighthouse? I remember being shewn over one at the North Foreland in Kent. I climbed up a narrow spiral staircase, and then presently found myself inside the large lantern, and the keeper explained how the light was turned on at night. Probably many a storm-tossed mariner had cause to be thankful for the beams of light on a dark stormy night, as there are many dangerous rocks around that part of the coast.

Life is sometimes compared to a stormy sea, though probably many children do not think so. To them, perhaps, this is more like a pleasant lake and they are not conscious of any danger. But there are hidden rocks beneath the surface, and the time comes when the sky is not so blue, and the soft, pleasant breezes give way to wild, stormy winds. How welcome then are the bright rays of light from the lighthouse!

When the Lord Jesus was here He said, "**I am the light of the world.**" Until we know Him our hearts are dark indeed and we are like the vessels drifting on the sea, not knowing whither they go.

What is it that makes our hearts so dark? Is it not sin which blinds us and so often makes us feel unhappy and miserable? What would you think of a room where the blinds are always kept drawn down, so that not a ray of sunlight can enter? The sun might be shining in all its splendour outside, but so long as the shutters and blinds are closed, the room is chilly and cheerless.

The love of God is like the sunshine, and our hearts in their natural state are like the room I have described. Let us then, as the hymn says,

"Fling the heart's door widely open,
Bid Him enter while we may."

H. J.



A LIGHTHOUSE FOR HIM

OF course you all know what a lighthouse is, don't you? Yes, it is a tower built on a rock; in the tower there is a little room from which a light is meant to shine out brightly, to warn ships of danger from the rocks, etc. around, and sometimes to show them the safe way into a harbour.

Now, we are going to talk about a different kind of lighthouse to-day! This lighthouse is YOU! The tower is your body,

and the little room from which the light should shine is your heart. There are terrible rocks and sinking sands of SIN all around you, but if you are built on the Rock of Ages, nothing can harm you. Sometimes we sing:

“Build on the Rock, the Rock that ever stands.

Oh, build on the Rock, and not upon the sands.

You need not fear the storm or the earthquake shock;

You're safe for evermore if you build on the Rock.”

Who is the Rock? Yes, **the Lord Jesus Christ.**

How can we build on the Lord Jesus Christ? By believing that He died for us, and by putting all our trust in Him to save us from our sins, and to keep us from sin's power. “**He is able to save to the uttermost**” (*Hebrews*, 7 : 25). “**He is able to keep us from falling**” (*Jude*, 24).

But we said that a lighthouse was built to let its light shine, to warn about danger, and to show the way into the harbour. Who is the Harbour—the Heavenly Harbour? Yes, of course: **The Lord Jesus Christ!** Here in the top of the tower is the little room, which is your heart, from which the light should shine. Now, one day when the Lord Jesus was here on earth, He said: “**As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**” (*John* 9 : 5). He never let the Light of His love grow dim. It shone more and more brightly, till at last He gave His life to save all those who believe in Him from being wrecked by SIN.

“He died that we might be forgiven,

He died to make us good:

That we might go at last to Heaven,

Saved by His precious blood.”

Now He has gone back to Heaven, but He says to you and me: “*Ye* are the light of the world” (*Matthew* 5 : 14, 16). Yes, all those of us who have asked the Lord Jesus to come into our hearts and wash them pure and white, are lighthouses. Let us each one ask ourselves: “Am I shining for the Lord Jesus?” Let us repeat this little verse together:

“Jesus wants me for a lighthouse,

To shine for Him each day;

In every way try to please Him,

At home, at work, at play.

A lighthouse, a lighthouse,

Jesus wants me for a lighthouse,

A lighthouse, a lighthouse

I'll be a lighthouse for Him!”

Is there someone saying: “But how can *I* shine for the Lord Jesus!” Well, you will be surprised when I say—*you can't!* You and I can't, but God can make His Light shine through us by His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can only fill the heart of one who is obedient though. If we do not obey the

Lord Jesus. His Light cannot shine through us. If we read our Bibles, we will know the things He tells us, such as being truthful, and loving, and not doing things in secret which we would not like people to see us doing !

Perhaps you are saying : “ But I am only a *little* lighthouse, and have such a small light ! ” Never mind ! Let it shine brightly, however small it is ! and the Lord Jesus will use you for blessing.

M. STUBBS.



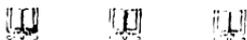
HOW DORIS FOUND PEACE

I WOULD like to tell you a true story of a little girl named Doris. She had often heard of the love of Jesus—how He shed His precious blood for poor lost sinners—and knew that her father and mother and sisters loved Jesus, and were enjoying forgiveness because they had confessed their sins and believed in the Lord Jesus.

Now Doris was only six years old, but she did not feel happy, because she knew that she had not yet confessed. So one morning while it was still dark, she crept into her mother's room, and her mother found her crying bitterly. Taking her into bed her mother asked what was the matter.

“ Oh ! ” Doris sobbed, “ I do ask Jesus to forgive me all my sins, but I don't think He has ” so lifting up her heart in prayer, her mother said, “ Let us ask Him together. ” Early that morning Doris found peace, and ever since she has loved to tell others that she is saved because she saw in God's Word : “ **He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.** ” (*John 3, 36*).

M. M. C.



DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

Most of you gave wrong answers to question three last time. **All** of them made excuses but three are given. I think it was rather a difficult question so have allowed marks.

Some of you still leave out the verses where found. Please always give this or you will not be eligible for a prize.

Several papers were received too late for insertion but marks have been given. J. Bell is in 1st Class. He did not give name on his paper.

I am glad to welcome the new searchers.

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (3)

THE PRODIGAL SON

My dear young friends,

We have a wonderful story before us. It is the greatest short story in the world. It tells of a home-coming and a welcome; a feast with music and merry-making; but, above all, it tells of a Father's heart.

Who was the prodigal son? He had a good father and a beautiful home where there was everything for which he could wish. But he became very dissatisfied and restless. He wanted to see the world. The thought of pleasure dazzled him. He resolved to get his fortune from his father and away he would go! Nothing would stop him—he was determined.

He laid his plans before his father and we can well see that his father must have been greatly grieved. But the money was counted out—he got his share. How delighted he was with the heaps of gold before him.

Now he was off. School days over—youthful duties left behind—a bright, happy future before him! He is off for a good long holiday—free from care—to do as he pleases and to enjoy his gold to the full.

He arrives in a 'far country.' Everything here is new to him—the streets, the shops, the theatres, the music halls, the saloons and bar-rooms. The lad from the country is enchanted. He meets friends and becomes one of the gay set. They all get along well together because our young friend has plenty of money and scatters it freely.

So he went on and it was wonderful how the money quickly disappeared. Alas, he knew what it was to spend the last penny and eat the last crust. He knew what it was to be turned out by his former companions and to walk the streets with empty pockets. Times were hard, thousands out of work, and bread at high prices because there was so very little.

At last he got work as a swine-herd, but the sad thing was that, whilst there was food for the pigs, *there was none for him*. So hungry was he that he would have eaten the pig food.

It was here that he began to think about his father. Even the servants in his father's house have bread enough for themselves and to spare for others. "I will arise and go to my father" said he. It was the very best thing he could do. And, when his father saw him, did he turn him away? No, he was himself in the 'far country' looking for his son! When they met, the father embraced him and covered him with kisses. The story tells us that they began to be merry. A merry-making which never ended.

This is a picture drawn by the Lord Jesus Christ to show how God waits to welcome everyone who turns to him. Youth is a very dangerous time. Satan is making a great effort to get control of young lives and drag them down. Boys and girls to-day are smoking, drinking, gambling—going down into sin. But the special temptations of youth may be overcome by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

The Lord wants to enrich your life and make you happy, and fill you with His own true joy. May you turn to Him in faith and open your heart to the Saviour now, is the earnest wish of

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. ROSS.

QUESTIONS FOR MAY-JUNE, 1944.

Subject: THE PRODIGAL SON. Luke 15.

1. What did the younger son do with his substance?
2. When did the famine arise?
3. When did he begin to be in want?
4. When did his father see him?
5. What were the first four words the prodigal said to his father when he returned?
6. What three things did the father tell the servants to put on him?
7. Why did they eat and were merry?
8. "And was lost and is found." Write out the whole verse which ends with these words.

MARCH-APRIL SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over

1st Class—M. Ambrose, M. Beaumont, A. Berrill, I. Blythe, F. Brightman, A. Cattell, E. Cottee, M. Easton, N. Grant, J. Greshon, D. Hornal, A. Lovett, D. Lumsden, W. Nisbet, B. Page, E. Pill, J. Reid, J. Renton, J. Robertson, B. Rogerson, D. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, K. Rugg, S. Smith, M. Tait, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, F. Wilkinson.

2nd Class—R. Blenkinsopp, E. Buttevic, S. Greenstone, S. Oliver, A. Shields, R. Usher.

Age 11 up to 13 years

1st Class—M. Abbey, S. Adams, D. Ambrose, M. Anderson, G. Baxter, M. Bendall, M. Brewer, N. Byass, O. Byass, J. Clark, M. Coles, E. Cudmore, R. Davis, D. Donaldson, S. Downs, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, M. Fairbairn, J. Graham, B. Greiff, D. Greiff, M. Handcock, S. Handcock, J. Henderson, L. Henderson, M. Henderson, B. Hodgins, A. Hodgson, R. Ilcs, G. Johnson, P. Kennedy, M. Lacey, D. Logan, R. Love, M. Miller, M. Monger, D. Monk, L. Northey, L. Ovington, J. Patterson, R. Patterson, H. Pearson, I. Peavor, A. Rice, M. Robertson, A. Rutherford, M. Sapp, D. Sealey, B. Simm, A. Simpson, M. Simpson, A. Stephenson, G. Taber, B. Tait, J. Ward, R. Williams, L. Willis.

2nd Class—A. Barker, R. Brown, S. Carr, J. Hayes, B. Jackson, R. Jackson, T. Johnstone, P. Lacey, S. Lancaster, E. Messenger, M. Monk, A. More, S. Shaw, M. Shirran, J. Short, W. Stewart, A. Towers, J. Wharrier.

Age 10 years and under

1st Class—J. Andrew, W. Andrew, J. Badham, M. Badham, M. Bailey, N. Binnie, J. Birch, C. Blackburn, K. Brown, C. Cadenhead, D. Carrick, J. Cockburn, M. Coles, E. Coutts, G. Coutts, J. Davis, R. Evans (Cambridge), R. Evans (Stockton), V. Fairbairn, E. Gibson, M. Gibson, J. Gray, W. Gray, D. Greiff, R. Griffiths, J. Grisdale, M. Grisdale, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, L. Hodgson, M. Holman, J. Jackson, G. Lacey, E. Love, I. Lovett, M. McInnes, E. Monger, A. Murray, J. Nelson, E. Northey, M. Perry, D. Renwick, D. Rigg, D. Robertson, I. Robertson, E. Rogers, P. Shaw, M. Shields, M. Simpson, B. Spencer, L. Stewart, G. Tait, E. Tetlow, C. Veitch, P. Ward, C. Williams.

2nd Class—H. Wharrier.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
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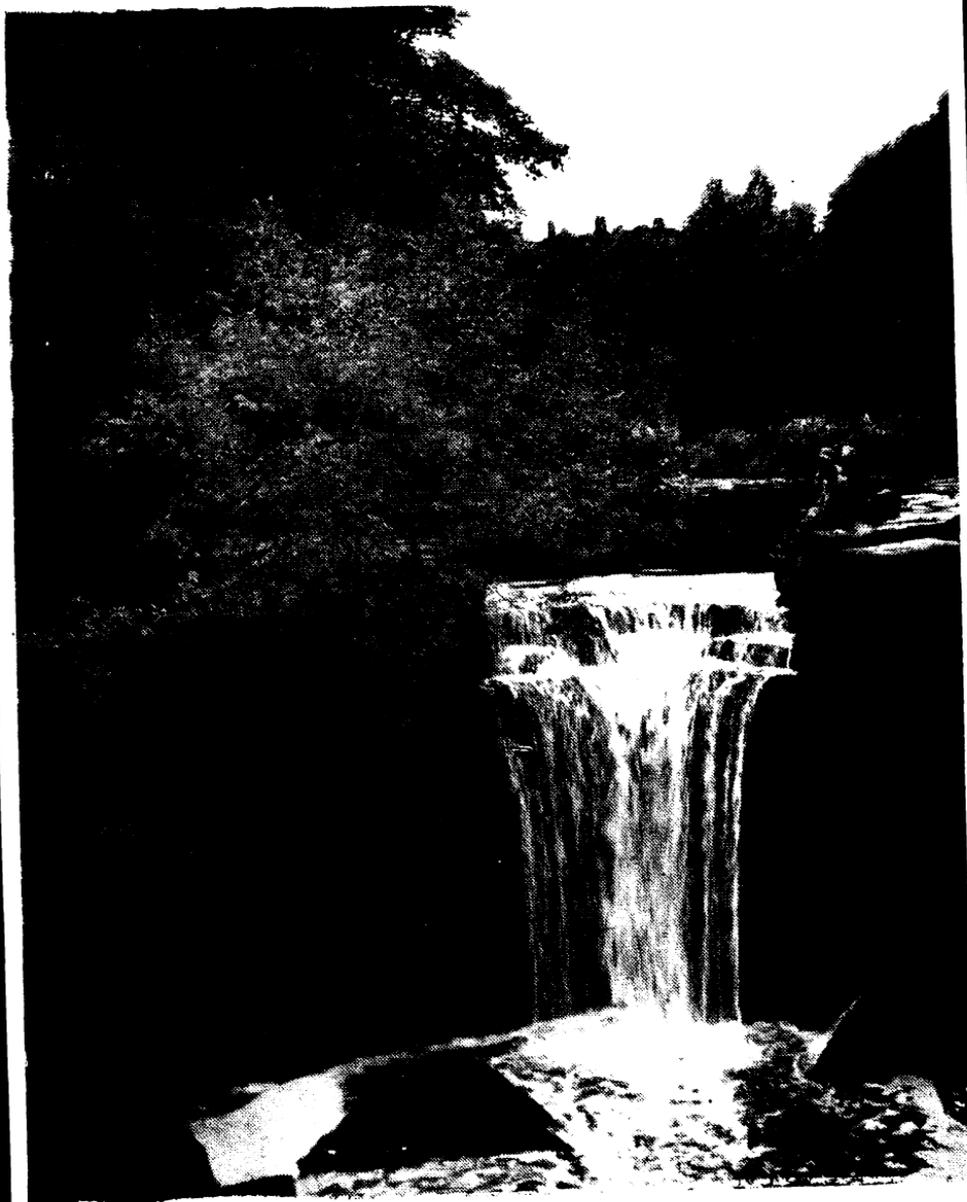
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Our Children



RESTING BESIDE THE WATERFALL

(Photo J. R. Jamison)

Published Bi-Monthly. 14d net or £3 per annum, post free.

“OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER SAID—”

A LONDON family who got bombed out during an air raid had gone to live with the grandparents. Another raid took place and as bombs were falling in the neighbourhood they took refuge under the staircase. Suddenly their little boy of nine looked up and said, “Daddy, why don’t you pray?”

“Hush, keep quiet, dear,” said the father.

“Daddy, our Sunday School teacher said we *should* ask Jesus to help us.”

Again the father silenced him for he was straining his ears to catch the sound of the bomb bursts. All at once the little boy put his hands together and prayed, “Dear Lord Jesus, save my Mummy, Daddy, Granny and me now, for Thy Name’s sake.” Both the father and mother burst into tears, and just then the sound of the bombing died away.

A Christian worker called at this house soon after and heard what had happened and also found both father and mother very ready to listen to the Gospel message which tells us how, “**God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life,**” and that God is the Saviour or Preserver of all men, “specially of those that believe.” So evidently the little fellow did not say his prayer in vain, and we hope that the salvation that came to that house was not only from bombs but also from sin. Sin, you know, is much worse than bombs, for a bomb is only a particularly nasty fruit which is produced by the terrible tree called “SIN.”

This story shows us that a small child may be used to turn both Mummy and Daddy to the Lord Jesus, but only if he has begun by really trusting in Him for himself. **Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus for yourself, as the Saviour from your sins?**

F. B. HOLE.



ON THE WRONG TRACK

HERE is how a gentleman describes his conversion. “From my childhood until I was eighteen years old, I never heard of anyone who could say their sins were forgiven. I heard many sermons, but never the “Gospel of the Grace of God” in its simplicity. I never remember the new birth being spoken of at all,

“ I attended a communicant’s class and the minister said I was now on the Lord’s side and I thought I had peace with God. But afterwards I learnt it was a *false peace*, though for a time I thought I was fairly started for the celestial city.

“ Some time after this two men came to preach in a small town near where I lived, and it was said they were preaching some “ new doctrine.” I did not go to the meetings at first, but at last went through curiosity. As I entered the hall, I heard them singing—

“ Ye must be born again, for so hath God decreed,
No reformation will suffice, ’tis life poor sinners need.”

“ These words of truth sank into my very soul. I found out that I was a guilty sinner, and on the wrong track. **I had been trying to live the life of a Christian without the life of God in my soul.**

“ How I bless God that He opened my eyes to see this fatal delusion before it was too late. Yes, Christ, on the cross had met every claim that God’s justice demanded. **I there and then saw and believed that the Lord Jesus died for me, and I was saved.**

X. X. X.



WHAT MONTH WERE YOU BORN IN?

OF course, you would probably reply, January, February, March, or so on. **But what month were you “ born again ” in ?**

Can you reply equally clearly. Surely you can tell within a month when the great transition took place, if it has taken place. Listen to the following testimony—

“ I was born at Dartmoor a small village near Auchinlock, on the 16th day of December, 1890. I was ignorant of my sins for 13 years, but at the end of that time I found out that I was a big sinner before God. On the eighth day of April I was at a meeting for children. After the preaching was over I waited behind, and it was through the preacher Mr. J. Forbes speaking to me that I found out I was a guilty sinner.

“ When I found out this, I asked God to forgive me for all the sins I had committed. I believed on Jesus and I knew I was saved. I looked to the Cross, and there I saw the Just suffering for the unjust, and I *know* I am saved because Jesus says in the sixth chapter of John, forty-seventh verse—**‘ He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life.’**

“ I have believed in Him, and I am looking forward to the time when I shall look on my Saviour, and I will know Him by the nail-prints in His hands and feet.”

What a simple, plain testimony, but oh ! what a solid basis to rest upon.

Are *you* resting *your* soul upon such a basis ?

X. X. X.



THE DISAPPOINTED ARTIST

WHEN the Lord Jesus was here on earth crowds gathered to see and hear Him and on one occasion there were people present who trusted in themselves and their doings for salvation ; so the Lord gave them a parable or picture of two men showing how useless this was.

“ Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus :— ‘ God, I thank thee that I am not as other men . . . or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto Heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, ‘ God be merciful to me a sinner.’ ”

The Lord then said that this man returned to his house justified more than the self-righteous Pharisee who returned as he came, boastful, guilty and unsaved. So you and I must take this picture to heart, and not think we can *be* or *do* anything to get salvation, but cry, as the publican did, for mercy to God who always hears and answers such cries.

The following incident will illustrate this.

There was an artist who was painting a Bible picture and wanted to put into the picture a dirty, ragged beggar, but for a long time he could not see one who would do. At last he met one poor, ragged, unwashed man who was exactly what he wanted, and going up to him said, “ Do you want to earn some money without working hard ? If you do come to my house tomorrow **just as you are** and sit for an hour while I paint you.”

The beggar eagerly promised and at the appointed time appeared at the artist’s house. But he had first washed himself, cut his beard, taken off his rags and borrowed a coat that made him look respectable.

The servant who answered the door asked him in, but when the artist saw him he did not recognise the man until he said that he had come for his money. Then the gentleman replied, "You are not the *same* man that I saw yesterday, he was unwashed and ragged but of use to me. You have made yourself respectable and so you are no good to me"; therefore he had to go away without his money.

If we try and cleanse ourselves before coming to God He cannot accept us in that way, for it is written, "**All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags,**" but if we come *just as we are*, confessing our sins, and believing in the Lord Jesus, who alone can forgive sins, we are welcomed and clothed in a spotless robe made for those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who died to save us and bring us to God.

R. L.



CALLING

YOU know what a call is, don't you? Somebody who is some distance away wants to speak to you more closely and so they call to attract your attention. There are ever so many people in the Bible whom God called in just this everyday sort of way because He had some special work for them to do, or some message for them to deliver.

You remember Abraham, how he was called out of his homeland to go into a foreign country to be the father of the great nation called Israelites. He was one of the first called.

Some people are called, even now, to go into strange lands, India, Africa, China and other far away countries. They go to take the Bible, and to tell the people who live there—**and who have never heard it before**—the wonderful story of the love of God for them, and we call these people missionaries.

Do you remember a story in the Bible about a little boy who was called? How he had gone to bed one night when God called "Samuel! Samuel!" How he thought it was his schoolmaster Eli, and it was not until the call had come four times, and he had been told to do so by Eli, that he answered, "Speak, for thy servant heareth." Do you remember the end of that story? Samuel was told that something dreadful was coming to Eli, and he did not want to repeat it to anyone, but in the morning

Eli asked him what God had said. Then Samuel, although he found it very hard to do it, told Eli bravely and truly, exactly what the message had been.

That is just precisely what God wants us to do when He calls us. First of all to answer **that He may know that we have heard His call, and then to do what He tells us just as faithfully as we can.** He calls each one of us. You may not hear His actual voice speaking like little Samuel did, but you have the Bible, which he hadn't, in which there is a call for everyone.

Here is one. Listen ! for you may answer it now if you will. "My son, [and it means my little boy, my little girl] give Me thine heart,"

If you say that this does not give you any work to do, you are quite right. But then, neither was Samuel given any work to do, until he had answered when God called him. And we must answer that we are willing to give Him our hearts and our lives, before He can use us for the smallest service.

D. M.



DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

The papers, on the whole, were nicely done this time. More care has been taken in setting out the answers. No doubt you know the story of the prodigal son so well that the questions were easy to answer. Have you ever thought that it is possible to know **all** the stories in the Bible and **yet not be saved**? It is a solemn thought.

A few are in second class because they did not state which verse. S. Carr must answer six questions.

All the late papers have been marked. I am sorry it is not possible to insert the names this time.

I trust Graham Baxter will soon be well again.

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (4)

THE TEN VIRGINS

Dear Boys and Girls,

Let us have a talk this month about 'being prepared.' You know the motto of the Boy Scout Movement "be prepared." It is a good thing to be prepared for anything which may happen and ready for any emergency. When something great is about to take place there must be preparation beforehand. If the King announced that he intended to visit your city or town, a committee would probably be formed to make the necessary arrangements. All the people would be prepared and the king would receive a great welcome. It would be a very great dishonour if the king arrived and found the people quite indifferent and no one to welcome him.

What is the lesson we learn from the story of the ten virgins? It is just this—that it is wise to be prepared. All the virgins had good intentions. They all wished to be at the marriage feast. But, whilst five went into the feast, five were shut out. Wherein lay the difference? Five were wise—they had made preparation. When the time came to meet the bridegroom, they were ready and they went into the marriage. But the other five were not prepared. They lingered, they turned back and then, when they did reach the place of marriage, they found the door shut and they could not get in. It is a lesson in 'preparedness.'

I ask you, "**Are you prepared?**" "Prepared for what?" you say. Well, you are young but one of two events may happen before you are much older. First, you may die. You probably have never thought of death. You are full of life, and death is a light matter with you. But children *do* die. Only recently I had a letter from a friend in the west of Ireland telling me that her daughter, who was a regular 'Scripture searcher' and loved to read this magazine, had passed away. No one is too young to die. After death everything is fixed. If you have trusted the Saviour in your lifetime, you will be with Him for ever. But, if you have not had your sins washed away, there will be no hope after death and you will have to bear the fearful consequences of those sins for ever.

Then, secondly, the Lord Jesus may come for His children. This is the very best event which could possibly happen for the christian. He has promised to come—when He *will* come, we do not know. But it will be soon. He will take away to be for ever in His presence every boy and girl also every man and woman who has trusted Him. Are *you* looking forward with a glad heart to this event? **Are you ready?**

Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ will surely come. If you are not ready to go with Him, you had better prepare now. Your sins will shut you out of His presence. Therefore, you must get rid of your sins if you would be ready for Him. For this you must trust Him to save you. **He has died that you might live. He loves you and longs to save you. Will you let Him save you now?**

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. ROSS.

QUESTIONS FOR JULY-AUGUST, 1944.

Subject: THE TEN VIRGINS. *Matthew 25*

1. How many had lamps?
2. How many had oil in their vessels?
3. Who took no oil with them?
4. What happened at midnight?
5. What did the foolish say unto the wise?
6. "The door was shut." Write out the verse which ends with these words.
7. Who went into the marriage?
8. Why are we to watch?

MAY-JUNE SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over

1st Class—I. Blythe, F. Brightman, N. Bunce, E. Cottee, H. Foreman, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, M. Henderson, B. Jackson, A. Lovett, D. Lumsden, R. McCrindle, S. Oliver, J. Petterson, E. Pill, J. Robertson, B. Rogerson, D. Rogerson, K. Rugg, H. Ryall, A. Simpson, M. Tait, K. Tombs, M. Tombs, R. Usher.

2nd Class—A. Berrill, R. Blenkinsopp, A. Cattell, N. Grant, B. Page, J. Reid, J. Renton, J. Rutherford, T. Young.

Age 11 up to 13 years

1st Class—M. Abbey, S. Adams, M. Anderson, A. Barker, M. Bendall, N. Bennett, P. Bunce, O. Byass, Meleta Coles, Molly Coles, E. Cruickshank, E. Cudmore, R. Davis, D. Donaldson, M. Easton, K. Fairbairn, M. Fairbairn, D. Gibson, J. Gibson, O. Goodsell, B. Greiff, D. Grieff, M. Handcock, S. Handcock, J. Hayes, I. Henderson, L. Henderson, B. Hodgins, R. Iles, R. Jackson, J. Jefferson, G. Johnson, F. Kennedy, M. Lacey, P. Lacey, R. Love, J. McPhail, E. May, M. Monger, L. Ovington, R. Patterson, H. Pearson, C. Peevor, I. Peevor, A. Rice, J. Richmond, Margaret Robertson, M. Sapp, D. Sealey, J. Short, Mary Simpson, Myrtle Simpson, A. Stephenson, B. Stevens, M. Stewart, G. Taber, J. Ward, J. Wharrier, R. Williams, L. Willis.

2nd Class—R. Brown, S. Carr, J. McHarg.

Age 10 years and under

1st Class—C. Abel, J. Andrew, J. Badham, M. Badham, M. Bailey, N. Binnie, C. Blackburn, K. Brown, D. Carrick, J. Cockburn, E. Coutts, G. Coutts, R. Evans, (Cambridge), R. Evans (Stockton), V. Fairbairn, M. Gibson, P. Greiff, R. Griffiths, M. Gridale, M. Hart, O. Hart, E. Hayes, K. Henderson, J. Jackson, E. Love, I. Lovett, E. Monger, A. Murray, J. Nelson, D. Rigg, D. Robertson, I. Robertson, E. Rogers, M. Shields, B. Spencer, G. Tait, F. Tetlow, A. Thompson, C. Veitch, P. Ward, H. Wharrier.

2nd Class—W. Andrew, J. Leck, D. Renwick.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—"Scripture Searching," Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, "Educational Exercise." Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2-oz., and post to reach by end of July. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes will be given in each class at the end of the year.

Prizes cease at the age of 16, but searchers are welcome to continue with their searchings.

Short interesting articles containing the Gospel will be welcomed
by the Editor:—

J. H. RUGG, 22 SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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ARE YOU BEING TRUE TO YOUR SAVIOUR ?

ONE day Jesus asked His disciples : “ Whom do men say that I am ? ” And they answered, John the Baptist ; but some say, Elias ; and others, One of the prophets. And He saith unto them, But whom say *ye* that I am ? And Peter answereth and saith unto Him, Thou art the Christ. Peter confessed Him before the other disciples, but later on, he was afraid, and denied that he knew Jesus at all when he was in danger. Oh, how sad Peter was when he realised how cowardly he had been ! He shed bitter tears, and I am sure he never forgave himself, although the Lord Jesus forgave him because he was so sorry.

Let us remember Peter, and take care that *we* do not deny our Saviour ! You know, He has said : “ Whosoever . . . shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this . . . sinful generation ; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the Holy Angels.” (Mark 8 : 38).

Perhaps you have seen an ornament made up of three little monkeys. One is covering his eyes with his paws, so that he should *see* no evil. Be careful, little eyes, where *you* look, lest your eyes lead you to be untrue to the Lord Jesus ! The second monkey is covering his ears, so that he should *hear* no evil. Be careful, little ears, what you hear, lest you be untrue to the Lord Jesus ! The third monkey is covering his mouth, so that he should *speak* no evil. Be careful, little mouth, that you never say anything that is disloyal to the Lord Jesus, and that you are always ready and willing to confess that He is “ the Christ,” God’s dear Son, and your Saviour.

MABEL STUBBS.



MY YOKE

WHEN we read certain words in the Bible, we sometimes ask, “ What did Jesus mean ? ”

Here is a very familiar saying : “ My yoke is easy.”

I expect most of you know what a yoke is, and what it is used for ! Those who have lived, or do live in the country now, have probably seen the farmer’s boy carrying two buckets suspended from his shoulders by a very curiously shaped piece of wood, called a yoke. It is in this way that the milkman used to deliver the milk from door to door.

What I think, is that Jesus, when He was out of doors, talking to the people, saw, just a little way off, a pair of big strong oxen drawing a plough over the fields. The animals were held together by a yoke which made their progress more steady and comfortable. Of course, like your collar or dress, it had to be made nicely and fitted. Jesus knew the difference between a good and a bad yoke, for He had probably made yokes for the cattle in the carpenter's shop in Nazareth.

Now, in Christ's day, were certain teachers who were called Rabbis, who gave the people many commandments. They made life very hard and religion became very disagreeable because of their endless rules. The yoke then, in this case, was an extra burden, whilst Jesus tried to let everyone know His yoke was easy.

I think He means us to try to do His bidding cheerfully wherever we are, and to do our Father's will as He did. In that way the burden becomes light. And the Lord Jesus will supply all the needed grace and strength to enable us for this.

L. W. WILKINSON.



DAISY AND THE SHEPHERD

IT was winter time. The lovely snow had been falling from the sky. The kind old shepherd was out in the fields, and as evening was coming on, he thought it was time to bring home the cows and sheep. When he had got them in safely, he found that one little lamb was missing. Where could "Daisy" be? He must go out again and search for her. So away he went with his crook in the hope of finding her.

Everywhere did he look, but still his pet was not to be seen—nothing but the pure white snow.

"Oh dear," he sighed, "I do hope I shall meet the poor little thing somewhere; how dark it is getting." Just then he heard a sound and listened. Presently there came a feeble bleat, and looking across the field, there he saw his lost "Daisy." Oh! how glad he was!

He brushed away the snow, picked up the dear little lamb in his arms, and was soon on his way back to the snug, warm fold. "Daisy" was now safe, and kept quite still while being carried home by the strong, kind shepherd.

Read Isaiah 40, 11, and you will see that this is what Jesus, the Good Shepherd, does for little ones who look to Him and trust in Him with their hearts.

Find also and learn Isaiah 53, 6, and John 10, 11-14. M.K.

BAD BARGAINS

PERHAPS some of you will exclaim, "What a funny title!" but I am going to tell you of at least three bad bargains that we read of in the Word of God. The first you will find in Genesis xxv., where the story is told of Esau bargaining with Jacob to sell his birthright for a meal. For a momentary gratification he sacrificed what was of the utmost value, although it lay in the future. He was very sorry for this afterwards when it was too late to undo the mischief that had been done. How sad are the words said of him in Heb. xii. 16, 17, where he is called a profane person! Though afterwards he sought his birthright with many tears, it was all in vain. How it proves to us that God is not to be trifled with! Indeed, what an insult it was to value what God had promised, at less than an ordinary meal, and how it should warn us not to consider the present at the expense of the future.

Another bad bargain is that which Judas made, when he betrayed his Lord into the hands of wicked men for thirty pieces of silver. Of this you will read in verses 14-16 of Matt. xxvi. "What will you give me?" said he; "and I will deliver him unto you?" And they agreed with him for thirty pieces of silver. Think of it, that blessed Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, was valued by one whom He had dearly loved, at the paltry sum of thirty silver coins! For the sake of money Judas turned traitor to the Son of God! Could wickedness be greater? Afterwards he repented of his terrible deed, and approached the chief priests to try and induce them to receive back the money, and release his innocent Master. But they, wicked men! considered their's a good bargain, and they said, "What is that to us? See thou to that" (Matt. xxvii. 4). Ah! he discovered that he had made a bad bargain, but recovery was now too late.

Now, consider another bad bargain which is still being made by many. This time the words are those of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they should have special weight with all. The Lord says, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his own soul?" (Mark viii. 36, 37). Now, dear young reader, this is a question that concerns you. You are asked to decide which is more important, to gain all that you can get out of the world, and lose your precious soul, or to turn away from a world that cannot yield you lasting happiness, to Jesus, who is waiting to receive you as a penitent sinner to Himself, that your soul may be eternally saved. **Remember, could you secure the world as a possession, it would only be for this life, but if you lose your soul, you lose it for eternity.**

CAUGHT

YES, there they lay in heaps, those tiny little fish, so fresh and pretty ; their bright scales glistening in the sunshine. But, alas, they had been caught in the fishermen's nets ; and now, in their helplessness, they were slowly dying, while many were already dead.

Bright as was that autumn morning, yet sad thoughts filled my mind, as I reflected that only a few hours before, those same pretty fish were enjoying their liberty in the depths of the deep sea, and knew not how near their end was. Yet during the dark hours of the night, the crafty fishermen had been slowly but surely encircling them with their huge nets, from which, once inside, there was no escape.

Ah, thought I, how like are those poor helpless fish to boys and girls, who though so young and tender, yet know not their danger, until at last they fall an easy prey to Satan's wiles ; and, helpless in his toils, are dying fast all around, caught unawares in Satan's net and shut in on every side, there is no possible way of escape, **save only through Him who came to save the lost and who, in tender pity, "when we were without strength," yea, altogether helpless, "died for the ungodly."**

Yes, dear reader, Jesus, God's own well-beloved Son, came "to proclaim liberty to the captives," and at the cross where He died for you and me, Satan's power was forever broken, so that his prisoners, whether young or old, might go free.

Will you not then trust Him NOW and so enjoy forgiveness and perfect liberty !

S. T.



TOO LATE FOR THE STEAMER

WHILE watching a steamer about to leave, I noticed a young man and a young woman walking leisurely toward the vessel. They had almost reached the gangway when it was thrown off and they were left behind. A moment sooner and they would have been safely on the boat—they exchanged looks of disappointment as much as to say "Too late !" It was, however, entirely their own fault because had they given heed to the advertised time when the boat would depart they would not have walked so leisurely and been left behind. I thought on Matthew 25, verses 5 to 13. Oh the danger of delay ? Satan the deceiver whispers "time enough when you are quite young ;"

but look at verse 10—“**They that were ready went in . . . and the door was shut.**” Behold the fate of those outside—“ I know you not.” Friend, do take warning, come to the Saviour now—to-morrow may be too late for you. Think of the awfulness of eternity without Christ? Save yourself the wail of the lost—come, oh come to Him now.

X. X. X.



NOW OR NEVER !

IT may even be that this day will be your last on earth, and that these words will be the last message from God to you—the last you will ever read. Eternity is drawing nigh, and perhaps you are very near the grave: the daily papers constantly record cases of sudden death—motor car, bus and other road vehicles. Do not be angry at our plain speaking, the Lord has said, “**Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” *John 3, 3.* If you have not been born again you are unprepared for Eternity. Perhaps you have been able to live without Christ and without salvation, but to die without Christ and without salvation is another matter. Oh think of it, to die without Christ and without hope for all eternity! If you have trifled with the matter do so no longer. Do you ask “What must I do to be saved?” the Word of God plainly supplies the answer—**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.** Now, salvation is within your reach, and it may be **NOW OR NEVER.**

X. X. X.



DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

I am pleased to welcome some new searchers again and trust they will continue and find the searching interesting and above all that it might be the means of bringing them to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. One boy has written on his paper that he was saved on the 4th June, 1944. This is very encouraging. Are *you* saved?

I also notice that some old searchers have started again. I have missed your papers and shall look forward to seeing them regularly again now.

Papers for November/December, 1943 and January/February, 1944 are to hand from Arthur Hallett of Angola. Marks will be duly given.

Some of you are still forgetting to state the verse where found when writing out the answers. Always remember to do this, otherwise you lose marks.

S. Greenstone must write out the answers.

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (5)

THE TEN POUNDS

Dear Young Friends,

Faithfulness is a very precious mark in a person's character. An employer who finds a person whom he can trust is relieved of a great deal of care and anxiety. **It is faithfulness in small matters which counts.** It was only a pound which was given to each of the nobleman's servants. But some of those servants so thought of their master's interests during his absence that they gained ten pounds. Some gained five pounds. Some never troubled themselves at all—they had their work to do and their own personal interests at heart—they did not bother themselves about the pound but kept it neatly wrapped up.

Now this "pound" to-day does not exactly mean a piece of money. It does in one sense mean money, but it also includes people's abilities or gifts. Everybody has natural gifts and when boys and girls are converted, they are given special gifts. There is something we can all do for the Lord Jesus Christ. I speak of Christians, of course, those who know Christ as Saviour. If you have not yielded yourself to Him, you cannot do anything to please Him.

We are responsible for making and doing the most and the best with our gifts and our opportunities. **The crowning is not for great deeds but for faithfulness.** We never know what will be the end of the smallest good we do in the world. Some one has said, "When men do anything for God, the very least thing, they never know where it will end nor what amount of work it will do for Him. Love's secret, therefore, is to be always doing things for God, and not to mind because they are very little ones." All our lives are taken up chiefly with little things. Now and then there may be some great deed done but, on the whole, it is the constant life of love—the ten thousand little acts and words—which speaks the real character of faithfulness. But what may seem in the eyes of men only a trifle, is great in the sight of God.

It will surprise many of us, when we reach home at last and all the harvest of our lives has been gathered in, that certain things which we have done, great things as we thought, may be passed over with little commendation. But other things which we had probably forgotten will be greatly valued and highly praised. God puts His own value upon all that we do—the act and the motive—it is our part to trade with the deposit He has left with us. **To speak for Christ—to live for Christ—to use our influence for Him—to make the most of the moments as they speed along, is what is our privilege.**

Then, dear boys and girls, see to it that you first have your feet set upon the heavenly road with Christ as your Saviour. Following this, let your whole life be lived for Him who died to save you.

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. ROSS.

QUESTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1944.

Subject: THE TEN POUNDS—*Luke 19.*

1. What four words did the nobleman say to his servants?
2. What message did his citizens send after him?
3. What did the first say about his pound?
4. What did the Lord say unto the first servant?
5. What did the second say about his pound?
6. What did the Lord say unto the second servant?
7. Who was given the pound which was taken from the wicked servant?
8. What happened to those who would not have Him to reign over them?

JULY-AUGUST SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class—V. Acheson, A. Berrill, R. Blenkinsopp, I. Blythe, F. Brightman, N. Bunce, A. Cattell, R. Chambers, H. Foreman, N. Grant, A. Green, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, E. Henderson, M. Little, A. Lovett, L. March, F. M. Messenger, A. Moore, M. McMasters, S. Oliver, J. Patterson, E. Pill, J. Reid, B. Rogerson, D. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, H. Ryall, A. Shields, M. Tombs, T. Youme.

2nd Class—V. Greaves, M. Lawson, R. Usher.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1st Class—G. Acheson, H. Acheson, M. Anderson, J. Badham, P. Baines, A. Barker, G. Baxter, M. Bendall, J. Birch, C. Blackburn, R. Brown, P. Bunce, G. Burt, S. Carr, K. Carroll, E. Cole, Meleta Coles, Molly Coles, E. Cruickshank, E. Cudmore, R. E. Davies, O. Goodsell, J. Graham, B. Greiff, D. Greiff, M. Grisdale, M. Handcock, S. Handcock, O. Hart, J. Hayes, B. Hodgins, A. Hodgson, R. Iles, M. Johnson, F. Kennedy, M. Lacey, P. Lacey, M. Monger, J. Nelson, L. Ovington, R. Patterson, E. Pugh, A. Rice, M. Sapp, D. Sealey, S. Shaw, J. Short, A. Stephenson, G. Taber, J. Ward, L. Willis, R. Wright.

2nd Class—M. Abbey, R. Adams, W. Barnett, S. Faunch, W. Faunch, D. Leece, F. Wilson.

Age 10 years and under.

1st Class—C. Abel, O. Aves, M. Badham, N. Binnie, O. Bleakley, K. A. Brown, B. Campbell, D. Carrick, A. Christie, E. Coutts, G. Coutts, J. Davis, R. Evans (Cambridge), R. Evans (Stockton), P. Greiff, R. Griffiths, M. Hart, E. Hayes, L. Hodgson, G. Lacey, I. Lovett, M. McGranaghan, E. Monger, A. Murray, L. Nelthorpe, W. Ovington, E. Rogers, P. Shaw, M. Shields, B. Spencer, A. Tetlow, E. Tetlow, A. Thompson, C. Veitch, P. Warf.

2nd Class—R. Chapman, J. Cockburn, W. Gray, D. Rigg.

RULES FOR SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS.

1. Searchers 10 years and under do 4 questions. Age 11 up to 13 do 6 questions. Age 14 and over answer all the questions.
2. Only a reference Bible to be used, no concordance, no outside help
3. Write out each answer and give chapter and verse where found.
4. Put your name and address and age on the first lines of your paper.
5. **Address Envelope**—“**Scripture Searching**,” Central Bible Truth Depot, 11, Little Britain, London, E.C.1. Mark in left-hand corner, “**Educational Exercise**.” Do not stick down, but tuck in flap, put on 1d. stamp if not over 2-oz., and post to reach by end of September. Answers from abroad may be sent after, but by *letter post*.

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J. H. RUGG, 22 SHAFTESBURY ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES

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Published Bi-Monthly.



Our Children



TWO LITTE MISCHIEFS.

(Photo E. S. Pugh)

“BOY WANTED”

IN a window in a house in south-east London I saw the other day a notice that caught my attention. The words were these:

BOY WANTED
Age 14 to 16
Thorough training given
Good wages and prospects
Apply within.

We're going to do a bit of thinking together as we "apply," as we say, those words to a matter of far greater importance than the one the advertiser had in mind.

Have you ever really thought that Jesus wants *you*? It's a thrilling thought isn't it? The dear Son of God, the One of whom we read in the Gospels, who went about doing good, healing the sick; the One who died as our Sin-bearer, and later rose from the grave and returned to heaven; the One who from heaven has, by His Spirit been changing people's hearts and lives for 1900 years. **That wonderful person really wants you!** Yes, you, living probably somewhere in Britain, in this twentieth century, and in this machine age. If you've never believed it before, believe it now, because it is *true*.

The notice limited its offer to boys of 14 to 16. But Jesus does not do that, for, as every reader of this magazine knows quite well **everybody** is invited. But I would say that if any boy of 14 to 16 would like a copy of a little book called "First things are best for you, my lad," I will gladly send it him, free of course, if he will write to me: Mr. E. Adams, 21 Boscastle Road, London, N.W.5.

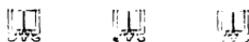
"THOROUGH TRAINING GIVEN." That's just what we receive when we become God's children through trusting the Saviour. We are now in God's family, and therefore in His school. **What a privilege to be taught by God Himself! King David could say, "O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth."** God does not "cram" His scholars, but educates them. And He gives to each, personal attention. And He never turns any scholar of His out of His school, however slow and backward he may be. Happy is the scholar who has God as his teacher.

"GOOD WAGES AND PROSPECTS." That sounds attractive! But does God give His children and scholars wages? Well, He gives them joy and the satisfaction of knowing that they please Him, as they do *His* will. It is one of the greatest privileges of the boy who belongs to Christ to try to win others for the Saviour and to help those who have come to Him. As to the Christian's prospects, we should look forward to constant progress in the good life here and now, and full salvation when we reach the better land.

“APPLY WITHIN.” Of course. No lad would hope to be taken on just by looking at the advert. He must go inside himself, and see the manager or foreman, and get things fixed up. **And you must apply to the Lord Jesus in person ; He alone can take you on in the Christian life.** Of course you have read and heard about this before. But this time are you going to *do it*?

No mention has been made of the girls. But of course it all applies as much to the girls as to the boys. So then, let us one and all to the Saviour go.

E. ADAMS.



NOW

A PASSENGER steamer left the Isle of Wight one summer afternoon for the main land, arriving there at six o'clock. As the passengers were leaving, the Captain told them that the boat would start on the return journey at seven o'clock sharp.

The hands of the clock on the pier gradually went round to five minutes to seven and those who were wise and believed what the Captain said, walked up the gangway, took their seats and were—*ready*. The steam whistle was blown to warn those who were lingering and right on the stroke of seven, the ropes were thrown off, the engines were set in motion and the steamer gradually left the pier.

Alas ! some people were seen running along the pier, one waving a stick, another a hat, while another shouted ; but it was too late, they were left behind. Just imagine the feelings of those people. How vexed they must have been with themselves for lingering too long ! They found that the Captain was true to his word.

Now, boys and girls, I want you to open your Bibles at 2 Cor. vi, 2 and you will hear God speaking to you through His word. **“ Now is the accepted time ; behold, now is the day of salvation.”**

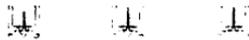
This earth on which we live is by the word of God kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men (2 Peter iii, 7). But God is longsuffering not willing that any should perish and so He has provided a way of escape.

Perhaps some boy or girl might say, as Thomas did (John xiv, 5) “ How can we know the way ? ” **Jesus says, “ I am the way, the truth and the life.”** It is only a step to Jesus, a step of faith. If you come to Him you will be ready and safe, for Jesus has said, “ Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.” Be sure that you come *now*. Why ? because God says so.

The Captain of the steamer told the people the exact hour that the boat would start. No one knows when Jesus will come, not even the angels in heaven. God alone knows. Death too may overtake you, or Jesus may come even while you are reading this.

The Captain warned the passengers by blowing the whistle at five minutes to seven. Boys and girls are warned by teachers in the Sunday School and by parents who believe God's word. There was another way for those people to get back to the Isle of Wight, though it cost them a lot of money, but if you miss God's Way there is no other. **“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”** (Acts iv. 12). **JESUS ONLY.** Remember! God's time is now.

P. G.



A HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

LORD, I would own Thy tender care
 And all Thy love to me;
 The food I eat, the clothes I wear,
 Are all bestowed by Thee.
 'Tis Thou preservest me from death
 And dangers every hour,
 I cannot draw another breath
 Unless Thou give me power.
 My health, and friends, and parents dear,
 To me by God are given;
 I have not any mercy here
 But what is sent from heaven.
 Such goodness Lord, and constant care
 A child can ne'er repay;
**But may it be my daily prayer
 To love Thee and obey.**

ANN TAYLOR.



DO YOU KNOW JESUS?

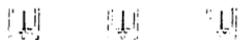
HOW important it is to turn to the Lord while you are young, for the older you get the more Satan seeks to lead you on down the broad road that leads to destruction. How much sinful misery would be avoided if in early life young hearts were given to the Lord!

Dear young reader, I want to ask you in plain words, **Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Are you saved through trusting in Him? Are you cleansed by His precious blood?** It may be that you have never realised your need of Him; you may never have yet bowed to the solemn truth of the word of God that you are a sinner, guilty before God, and lost!

Listen to what He says in Romans iii., "For there is no difference, for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Does not this include you? Don't, I beseech you, run away with the idea that this Scripture only refers to grown-up men and women, for it undoubtedly includes young people, and children as well. When God says "all" He means *you* and everyone else. Then if we cannot get away from the fact that we are all sinners in the sight of God, who is holy, neither can we do away with what God says in Romans vi. 23, "The wages of sin is death."

Do you not often see a funeral carriage carrying the confined remains of a once-bright young child to its grave? And do not such sights speak solemnly to you, warning you of the possibility that even you may be suddenly taken away? It is because of this that I earnestly invite all my young unsaved readers to come to Jesus without delay. And how is it that you may come as a guilty sinner to Jesus? Why! because He has in love suffered the death that was due to you as the wages of your sin. Would you not like to know Him, and be able to say "He died for me"? Don't let Satan keep you away from Him any longer, for I am sure you cannot be truly happy if you do not know Jesus. **It is just for such sinners as you that Jesus died and He is waiting to welcome you to Himself in glory.** May you come to Him now without delay.

W. G.



THE POLICEMAN; or, LAW AND GRACE

CHILDREN, I will tell you of my first experience of a policeman. He was tall and he was big, and I was afraid of him. He stood at the corner of a street when I was introduced to him and looked like a big mountain that would fall down on me; for I was only five years old then. It happened thus. Though I was small, I was very naughty and my teachers could not do anything with me; so they thought that if they gave me a good fright perhaps I should be a better boy. So the next time we were out for a walk and a big man in blue was seen, I was taken right up to him and he was asked what should be done with me. I forget what he said, but I was very frightened and would have run away

if I had dared ; but the tall man, his eye and his truncheon by his side held me to the spot.

Have you ever read how the children of Israel were terrified by hearing God's law at Sinai? It was just like that. But somehow, though I was so frightened, it never made me good.

Now there were three old ladies who had the care of me, one was Mrs. B. who was very solemn—I think she wore gold spectacles and that made her look very important—and she used to talk solemnly to me and tell me to be a better boy. I did not like her. But there was another, Miss E., who was very kind though she was not less strict. She did not seem so terrible a person as Mrs. B., but taught me to say little verses of hymns, gave me things to amuse me, and amongst other things helped me to make my first purchase. Well all three old ladies must long since have passed away, and I am nearly ten times as old as I was then, but I shall always remember the policeman and Mrs. B. who in her severe way sought to make me good—reminding me, as it does, of God's law which is "holy and just and good . . . but I am sold under sin" (Rom. vii. 12, 14).

In contrast with this, the influence of Miss E., recalls the power of grace as spoken of in Titus iii. 4, 5. "After that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us."

May you know this love, dear children, in all its saving power.
X. Y. Z.



DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

First of all will you see if your name is amongst the following :—W. Faunch, S. Faunch, D. Leece, W. Gray, R. Chapman, J. Jordan, H. Armitage, A. Stevens, B. Stevens, D. Jobson, N. Bennett. If so, there is something in the "rules" which you have not noticed. Will you please read them again carefully?

Then, will you all be sure to put your age, name and address on your November, December papers and please send them in as early as possible as the prize list has to be made out.

Some of you may think the questions a little hard for this month, but if you just think over them first you will find that they are not so hard as they appear.

I am so glad to hear that another of our little searchers has trusted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour. Have you?

A correct paper has come from A. Hallett of Angola.

I was pleased to receive Mrs. Blenkinsopp's kind letter and stamp.

Your loving friend,

E. M. A.

SCRIPTURE SEARCHERS CORNER (6)

THE MARRIAGE OF THE KING'S SON

Dear Boys and Girls,

I want to tell you about a young pilot-officer in the R.A.F. He was 23 years of age and lost his life in one of the bravest air exploits of the war. While flying his bomber over Germany, three members of his crew baled out owing to a misunderstanding and left him and the three remaining members in a very serious position. Cyril Barton, for that was the young man's name, flew over, released his bombs himself, and brought the aircraft back to Britain, in spite of great mechanical damage. In landing, he crashed, and was killed, but his three fellow-airmen escaped. Pilot-Officer Barton left a letter for his parents, to be opened in the event of his death, and in this he bore testimony for Christ. "I'm quite prepared to die," he wrote, "it holds no terrors for me. I know I shall survive the judgment because I have trusted in Christ as my Saviour. *I've done nothing to merit glory, but because He died for me, it's God's free gift.*"

This is a wonderful testimony, and I ask you to notice especially that, whilst he was sure of his eternal welfare, he declared "*I've done nothing to merit glory.*"

All of us who are saved have the same thing to say, that we ourselves have not merited salvation. We could not do anything towards the salvation of our souls. Yet, there are numbers of people who are endeavouring to *do* something to gain God's favour and they cannot see that all there is to do has been *done* by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Such people are like the man in our parable who went to the marriage feast but refused to put on the wedding garment. The guests were assembled, the king came in, and immediately he saw the man without a wedding garment—he was unlike all the other guests. I think I see this man as he goes in. He looks at the garments provided for such occasions, then he looks at his own clothes. "My clothes are as good as those," he said to himself, and in he goes to the feast. "Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?" said the king. *The man was speechless. He could not say anything—he knew that he was wrong.*

Do not think, dear boys and girls, that anything you can do will take the place of what Christ has done. Because the Lord Jesus Christ died upon the cross, you can be freely saved. Not because of your effort or endeavour or merit, but because of His sovereign grace you can be saved now at this moment. Then why not trust Him?

Your affectionate friend,

C. S. ROSS.

QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1944.

Subject: MARRIAGE OF THE KING'S SON. Matthew 22.

1. For whom was the marriage made?
2. What was the message the other servants were sent with?
3. How did the people receive the message?
4. "Go ye therefore . . ." Write out the verse beginning with these words.
5. What did the king say when he came in to see the guests?
6. What did the king say to the man without a wedding garment?
7. What did the man reply?
8. How many are called and how many chosen?

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER SEARCHERS.

Age 14 years and over.

1st Class—A. Berrill, D. Birch, I. Blythe, F. Brightman, A. Cattell, R. Chambers, W. Dewars, H. Foreman, N. Grant, S. Greenstone, J. Greshon, A. Hamilton, E. Henderson, M. Little, A. Lovett, M. McConnachie, V. McIntosh, M. McMasters, F. M. Messenger, A. Oliver, J. Oliver, B. Page, J. Patterson, J. Reid, J. Renton, B. Rogerson, D. Rogerson, D. A. Rugg, K. Rugg, H. Ryall, A. Shields, A. Simpson, R. Usher, J. Ward, R. Winsley, T. Young.

2nd Class—R. Blenkinsopp, O. Cain, M. Lawson, S. Smith.

Age 11 up to 13 years.

1st Class—M. Abbey, S. Adams, M. Anderson, J. Andrew, S. Arthur, J. Badham, A. Barker, G. Baxter, M. Bendall, J. Birch, C. Blackburn, R. Brown, H. Buchan, O. Byass, S. Carr, K. Carroll, D. Cockburn, E. Cruikshank, N. Cruikshank, E. Cudmore, R. Davis, I. Erridge, K. Fairbairn, M. Fairbairn, R. Fairfoul, N. Fraser, J. Graham, B. Greiff, D. Greiff, M. Grisdale, O. Hart, E. Hayes, J. Hayes, I. Henderson, B. Hodgins, A. Hodgson, D. Jobson, G. Johnson, F. Kennedy, M. Lacey, P. Lacey, R. Love, I. Lovett, J. McGranaghan, V. McDonald, M. Monger, J. Nelson, L. Ovington, R. Patterson, H. Pearson, I. Peevor, A. Rice, A. Rutherford, M. Sapp, S. Shaw, Mary Simpson, Myrtle Simpson, A. Stephenson, M. Stewart, B. Tait, M. Watson, R. Williams, L. Willis.

2nd Class—J. Burton, J. Cruikshank, M. Cruikshank, S. Fauch, W. Fauch, D. Leece, C. Leech, L. Nelthorpe, J. Short, B. Stevens.

Age 10 years and under.

1st Class—C. Abel, M. Andrew, W. Andrew, H. Armitage, M. Badham, M. Bailey, N. Binnie, O. Bleakley, K. A. Brown, C. Cadenhead, A. Cameron, D. Carrick, D. Cattanack, J. Cockburn, E. Coutts, G. Coutts, M. Curry, J. Davis, R. Evans (Stockton), R. Evans (Cambridge), V. Fairbairn, S. Gordon, P. Greiff, R. Griffiths, M. Hart, D. Haughton, K. Henderson, L. Hodgson, J. Jordan, E. Love, E. Monger, A. Murray, W. Ovington, D. Renwick, D. Rigg, A. Robertson, P. Robinson, E. Rogers, P. Shaw, M. Shields, M. Smith, B. Spencer, A. Tetlow, E. Tetlow, C. Veitch, P. Ward, W. Watson, E. Young.

2nd Class—R. Chapman, W. Gray, A. Stevens.

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